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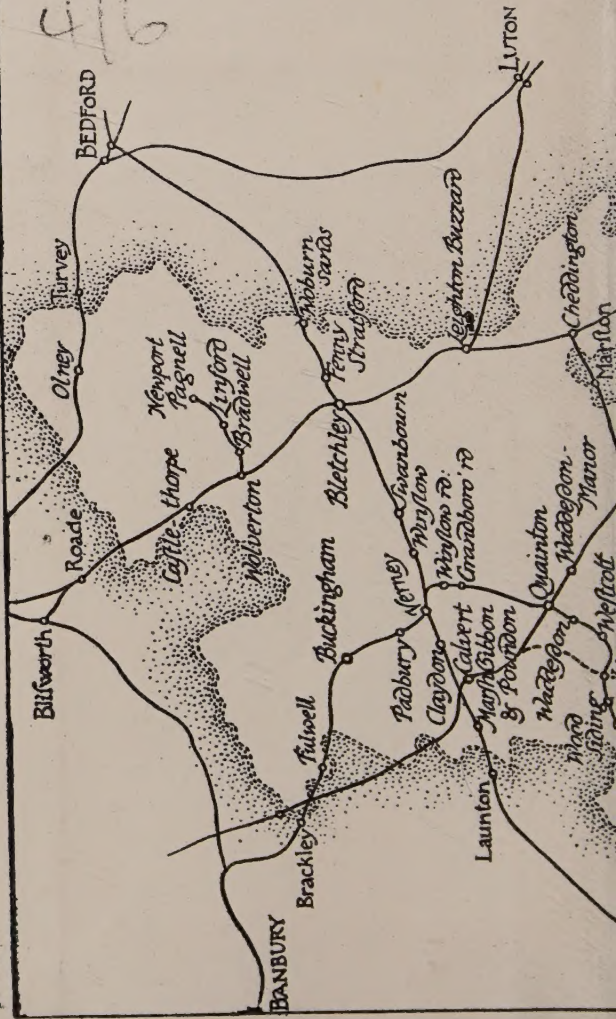


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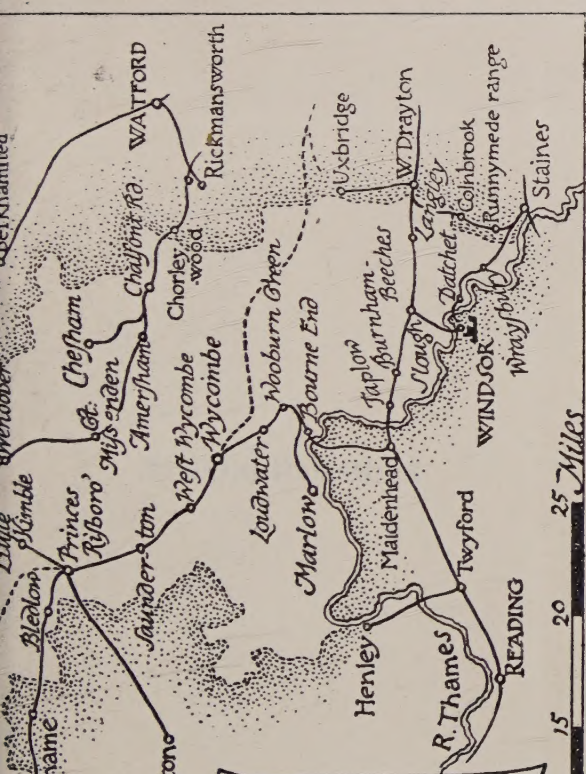
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OXFORD
Little
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The
RAILWAYS
of
BUCKING'
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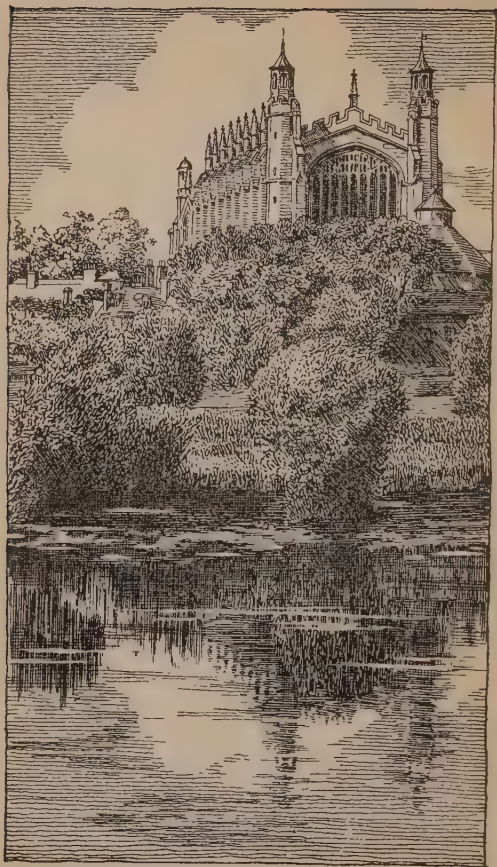
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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

THE LITTLE GUIDES

CAMBRIDGE AND ITS
COLLEGES
OXFORD AND ITS COLLEGES
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
WESTMINSTER ABBEY
THE TEMPLE
THE ENGLISH LAKES
THE MALVERN COUNTRY
SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTRY
BEDFORDSHIRE AND
HUNTINGDONSHIRE
BERKSHIRE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
THE CHANNEL ISLANDS
CHESHIRE
CORNWALL
DERBYSHIRE
DEVON
DORSET
DURHAM
ESSEX
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
HAMPSHIRE
HEREFORDSHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
THE ISLE OF WIGHT
KENT
LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND

LINCOLNSHIRE
LONDON
MIDDLESEX
MONMOUTHSHIRE
NORFOLK
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NORTHUMBERLAND
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
OXFORDSHIRE
SHROPSHIRE
SOMERSET
STAFFORDSHIRE
SUFFOLK
SURREY
SUSSEX
THE EAST RIDING OF
YORKSHIRE
THE NORTH RIDING OF
YORKSHIRE
THE WEST RIDING OF
YORKSHIRE
WARWICKSHIRE
WILTSHIRE
NORTH WALES
SOUTH WALES
KERRY
BRITTANY
NORMANDY
ROME
SICILY



ETON COLLEGE CHAPEL, FROM FOOTBRIDGE

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

By

E · S · ROSCOE

*With Sixteen Illustrations by F. D. Bedford
Twelve from Photographs, and Four
Maps and Plans*

"The sloping land recedes into the clouds ;
Displaying on its varied side the grace
Of hedge-row beauties numberless, square tower,
Tall spire, from which the sound of cheerful bells
Just undulates upon the list'ning year,
Groves, heaths, and smoking villages, remote."

COWPER, *The Task*, Bk. I.

LONDON
METHUEN & CO. LTD.
36 Essex St. Strand

Third Edition, Revised

First Published . . . *September 3rd 1903*
Second Edition . . . *July 1914*
Third Edition . . . *1918*

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PREFATORY NOTE

SINCE the first edition of this Little Guide was published, the face of Buckinghamshire has been altered by the construction of new railways. These have produced considerable changes in the south of the County, where populous residential districts have been created in sparsely populated localities.

The publication of the two *Reports of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments*, in 1912 and 1913, has placed an immense mass of authoritative details at the service of those who are interested in the antiquities of Buckinghamshire. Of these valuable volumes adequate use has been made in preparing this edition.

E. S. R.

May 1914.

PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION

IN this edition a few changes and corrections have been made in the text to bring it up to date. Thanks are due to several correspondents who have offered suggestions and emendations—such communications are appreciated by the publishers of this series, as they are of no little service to the several editors. Correspondents sometimes desire to have further details of a building, but in a small book it is impossible to notice every interesting antiquarian feature of a house or a church. If, however, those who have charge of the churches of Buckinghamshire would affix in the porch the architectural description of the church given in the Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, they would do no little service to those who desire a minute guide to the building.

E. S. R.

April 1918

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Note.—Messrs METHUEN wish to acknowledge their indebtedness to the late Sir Edmund Verney, Messrs Valentine & Sons, Ltd., Freeman, Hills & Saunders, Payne, Piggott, Taunt & Co., and Walford & Son, from whose photographs the drawings have been made. The plans have been drawn by Mr B. C. Boulter, that of Eton from the plan in the Eton Calendar by permission of the publishers.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

I. SITUATION, EXTENT, AND BOUNDARIES

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, one of the southern-midland counties of England, lying between $51^{\circ} 25'$ and $52^{\circ} 10'$ north latitude, and $0^{\circ} 28'$ and $1^{\circ} 12'$ west longitude, is bounded on the N. by Northamptonshire, W. by Oxfordshire, S. by Berkshire, and E. by Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Its extreme northern and southern points are Lavendon and Wryardisbury. Its greatest length is 53 miles, greatest breadth 27 miles; its area is 479,358 acres, or nearly 749 square miles; of these, in 1912, 260,379 were permanent grass and 134,023 were arable, 2580 were mountain and heath land and 2051 were water. It should be added that Buckinghamshire is the thirty-third in size of the English counties.

The county derives its name from the town of Buckingham. Authorities differ as to its etymology.¹ In popular opinion it has been considered to have been derived from Bucken (A.S.

¹ *Camden*—Bucken (S. Bucca Buceen), beech trees; *Sir Henry Spelman*—Buceen, *e.g.*, bucks or deer; *Lysons*, in *Magna Britannia* states that boch refers to its being bochland in contradistinction to folkland; *Browne Willis*—Buc Cervus, *e.g.*, a buck or hart and forest; *Sheahan* is of opinion that Buckingham derives its name from its A.S. proprietors, the Buckings or Bockings.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bucca, Bocceen)=beech trees, an idea which probably arose from the beech forests which extended southwards from the summit of the Chilterns, but it is more probable that it owes its name directly to an Anglo-Saxon thane, one Buck or Bock, whose heirs and dependants would be the *Bockings* (the syllable *ing* being A.S. patronymic suffix). Hence the name of their settlement Bucking-ham, home of the family of Bock or Buck.

II. GENERAL FEATURES, SCENERY AND CLIMATE

If a second Arthur Young were beginning a survey of Buckinghamshire, he would start from the northern apex which includes the valley of the Ouse with its sluggish waters and large, low-lying meadows, and has on the upper ground a mixed agricultural district akin to that of Bedfordshire, chiefly arable, large fields marked by first-rate farming. As he proceeded southwards he would find that one branch of this river, called the Ousel, comes from the east passing along the edge of Bedfordshire, while the main Ouse flows from the west—from Buckingham and the borders of Northamptonshire. Between these two streams the main portion of the northern part of the county is extended, a space of broken country, of low heights, woods, copses, and somewhat small enclosures, alternately grass and arable, of pleasant villages and small farmsteads—when he touches the railway from Bletchley

GENERAL FEATURES

to Oxford he will perceive—as, for instance, from the churchyard of East Claydon extending before him a tract of fertile pasture land, broken by eminences such as the distant hill of Brill and the heights of Ashendon, the centre and type of which are the immemorial grazing grounds of Creslow, and which, commonly called the Vale of Aylesbury, extends to the uprising range of the Chilterns, which break the horizon on the south. This is a space nearly 15 miles in breadth, in a bee-line of grassy hill and pasture, of picturesque villages with heavily thatched and white-walled cottages clustered on eminences, of churches of no little architectural interest, and ancient manor houses. In its fertility and spaciousness it is markedly in contrast to the land between the summits of the Chilterns and the borders of Middlesex and the valley of the Thames, and if we eliminate for a moment the farmhouses which are scattered here and there in the meadows, and the hedges which were planted at the beginning of the 18th century, when the enclosure of open fields became common, and many acres of arable land became pastures, we shall have a clear idea of the centre of mediæval Buckinghamshire with the village community grouped around the church and the manor house, near which were the lord's desmesnes, while the cattle of the village were sent to graze in the marshy and undrained lowlands, most of which were inaccessible except in the height of summer. The most striking natural feature is formed by the Chiltern Hills, which have affected both the scenery and the character of the county. Care-

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ful observers have also noted a marked difference between the inhabitants of these hills and of the open country, the former being smaller, darker and more Celtic in appearance. But this difference with improved communications is passing away.

North Bucks has been a rich grazing and pastoral county from an early age. South Bucks has a poor, flinty and chalky soil, resulting in light crops of grain, and in pastures only in the valleys or in the waterless bottoms which are characteristic of the Chiltern Hills.

For the lover of the picturesque, the secluded valleys and bottoms, the flint-built and thatched cottages around the small grey church are very attractive, but the northern portion of the county, with its wide views, its pleasant undulations, and its church-crowned hills, has many charms. Buckinghamshire can scarcely be said to possess a river. The Ouse rising in Oxfordshire, passes a mere brook into the county near Brackley, and leaves it at Brayfield near Olney. With Berkshire the county shares in the Thames from Wraysbury to within sight of Henley, a tributary of which, the Thame, has its head waters in the brooks which are seen among the pastures to the west of Aylesbury, and leaves the county at the little Oxfordshire town of Thame.

The Chess, rising at Chesham, and entering Herts is only a pretty trout stream, as is the Wye or Wycombe stream. With the exception of High Wycombe and Slough there are no towns of importance, no great ecclesiastical building, but from the meadows of Olney to the playing fields of Eton

BEECH WOODS

the county is full of charming landscapes, and of interesting architectural and archæological features. The Chiltern district abounds in attractive walks, for along the whole line of the hills, from Edlesborough to Bledlow, are wide spreading views. Nowhere in England are more extensive beech woods than on the southern slopes. The green and stately trunks rising from a carpet of fallen leaves, at one season red, at another brown, are unequalled in their magnificence. Sometimes in winter or spring the wayfarer will find his path barred by the long spare trees laid low on the dry leaves; around their heads are the clean thin branches, now separated by the axe of the woodman, but still encircling the trunk. In spring-time one may look down on acres of a peculiarly light delicate green, which, when June has come, take a shining soberness of colour. With the last weeks of September gorgeous spaces of yellow and red and bronze begin to break the continuity of colour, and the hues deepen till a rich brown overspreads the hollows and the hillsides, until the leaves fall under the influence of the early frost. These beech forests affected at one time the social character of the county. They became the hiding-place of bands of lawless men—a rural Alsatia—which was a danger to the surrounding districts. It was this lawlessness which caused the appointment of a functionary known as the Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds—of Stoke, Desborough, and Burnham—that is, of the district lying between the Chilterns, the Thames valley, and the borders of Hertfordshire. The

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

office would probably by this time be forgotten had it not served by reason of a Parliamentary fiction to enable the retirement of members of the House of Commons. It is regarded as an office of profit under the Crown, the acceptance of which makes a person ineligible any longer to sit in the House without a new election. This curious use, so far as regards the particular office, seems to have been first practised in 1740, and since that date the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds has become part of the recognised Parliamentary practice.

The climate of the county is affected by the Chiltern Hills—that of North Bucks is akin to the climate of the Midlands ; south of the range it is warmer and dryer. From 1870 to 1899 the average rainfall at Winslow (North Bucks) was 26.75 inches ; at Slough (South Bucks) 24.00 inches. Buckinghamshire, both north and south, may be considered a dry county, since it compares not unfavourably with Cambridgeshire, the driest of English counties, with an average rainfall of about $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and favourably with a county such as Sussex, by no means the wettest, with a rainfall of 31 inches.

III. GEOLOGY¹

The geology of Buckinghamshire is the main cause of the characteristic features both of the landscape and the agriculture of the county.

¹ By Aubrey Strahan, Sc.D., F.R.S., Director of H.M. Geological Survey.

GEOLOGY

From Yorkshire across England to Dorset there extends a line of chalk hills, known as Wolds in the north—as the Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire, and as far south as the Thames—and as Downs in the south. Some distance further north there runs a parallel range, which includes the moors of East Yorkshire, the central ridge of Lincolnshire and the Cotteswold Hills of Gloucestershire. Between the two ranges lies a tract of almost uniformly low ground, terminating in the Fens in the one direction, forming the Vale of Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, and reaching the Channel on the coast of Dorset. Lastly, the long slopes which lead southwards from the summit of the Chiltern range terminate in an undulating plain which surrounds London. A strip of country, elongated in a north-and-south direction, and so selected as to include parts of all four of these tracts, will represent the county of Buckinghamshire.

The features just described are due to the outcrops of a series of strata of widely different character. Thus the more northern range owes its form to a massive light-coloured limestone, containing small egg-shaped concretions of carbonate of lime, from which fact it gains its name of Great Oolite Limestone. The low-lying tract is underlain by a great thickness of clay, and that the Chiltern Hills are formed of chalk is obvious at a glance. Further, the strata all dip downwards in succession into the earth south-eastwards, from which fact we infer that those which crop out to the north are the lowest and oldest, and that those which succeed them towards the

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

south are higher and newer. Such, in fact, is the case, and in travelling from the north to the south of the county we shall pass over in succession the outcrops of various members of the Oolitic series which comprise the hills of Brill and Ashendon, including the great mass of the Oxford and Kimmeridge Clays ; we shall then surmount the escarpment of the chalk, and by descending the long dip-slopes to the south of it gain the area occupied by the newest strata of the county, namely, some of the Lower Tertiary beds of the London area.

The oldest rock exposed in the county comes to the surface in the valleys of the Ouse and the Tove, and is recognised as the Upper Lias. This is overlain by some sands and clays known as the Lower Estuarine Series, which are only a few feet thick, though their equivalents form a prominent feature in the Cotteswold Hills. The Great Oolite Series, which comes next, includes an upper subdivision of clay, a middle mass of the limestone already referred to, and a lower subdivision of estuarine character. The limestone underlies a wide region along the Ouse, by Stony Stratford and around Stowe and Biddlesdon, and though much quarried it is inferior to the well-known stone got from the same bed at Bath.

The Cornbrash, a rubbly and highly fossiliferous limestone, though thin changes least of all the Oolitic strata in the long outcrop across England. It runs along the south side of the Ouse Valley, and extends by Newport Pagnell, Beachampton and near Buckingham, with several

GEOLOGY

patches severed by denudation from the main outcrop.

The Oxford Clay, which comes next, is estimated to be 400 feet thick, and is a soft pale-blue clay, yielding a soil which is devoted chiefly to pasture. It forms a tract of some six to ten miles in width, in the middle of which are situated Bletchley and Winslow. The Corallian rocks which should follow it are represented in Buckinghamshire by a few feet of clay only, but the Kimmeridge Clay, next in order, is about 100 feet thick. It crops under the Vale of Aylesbury, under parts of which there must therefore be between 500 and 600 feet of clay.

The Portland Beds, in which the well-known Portland Stone occurs, are quarried at Hartwell and Aylesbury. A clay between the stone and the Kimmeridge Clay was used by the Romans for pottery, and is now worked at Hartwell for making bricks. Purbeck strata, with their remarkable record of the alternation of marine and estuarine conditions, are recognised at Quainton, Brill, Cuddington, Stone, Hartwell and other places, but both they and the Portland Beds occur in patches only.

We pass now from the Jurassic system of strata on to what is known as the Cretaceous System from the fact of its containing the Chalk (*creta*) as its principal member. The lowest member, or the Wealden, is missing in Buckinghamshire, and the Purbecks are succeeded by the Lower Greensand, which forms an outcrop two or three miles in width, extending from Puttenham and Aston Clinton to Towersey and Ilmer. It con-

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

tains phosphatic nodules which were worked at Brickhill and beds of fuller's earth which were being dug at Wavendon Heath so long ago as 1723.

At the top of the Lower Greensand, as well as at its bottom, there is a gap in the geological record. The strata upon which the Greensand was deposited had been elevated and denuded during the interval of time represented by the missing Wealden Beds, and it thus happens that the Greensand rests upon various members of the Oolitic series, not always upon the uppermost. Between the Greensand and the Gault there is a similar unconformity, even more marked however, so that not only the Greensand but several of the Upper Oolitic strata are missing below the Gault in parts of the county. The Gault is a stiff blue clay upwards of 200 feet thick. It contains phosphatic nodules which have been worked in several places, and in its upper part passes into a greenish sand, the Upper Greensand of the southern counties.

Here we reach the foot of the Chiltern Hills, which in Coombe Hill, south-west of Wendover, form the highest ground in Buckinghamshire (852 feet). The chalk, though at first sight homogeneous, is readily divisible into a lower division of marl, a middle division of massive chalk with a few flints, and with a hard nodular base known as the Melbourn Rock, and an upper division, in which flints abound, and which has a band known as the Chalk Rock at its base. Each division, moreover, is characterised by certain fossils, which experience has shown to be a more

GEOLOGY

reliable guide than the presence of flints or even the character of the rock. The total thickness is about 800 feet, of which half is assignable to the Upper Chalk. The dip being to the south-east the chalk escarpment presents a steep face to the north-west, but descends southwards in a long slope intersected by numerous winding valleys, and loaded on the intervening ridges with superficial gravels. In this belt, with its rich growth of beech trees and the softly-flowing contours of its dry chalk valleys, is found some of the best scenery of the Home Counties.

The Tertiary Beds occupy the southern angle of the county, but occur also in numerous patches on the chalk-slope, where they happen to have escaped denudation. They consist of generally brightly-tinted sands and clay in the lower part (Reading Beds) and of a stiff brown clay (London Clay) in the upper part. They are, however, much overspread by superficial gravels.

The superficial deposits in Buckinghamshire belong partly to the Glacial Epoch. A clay full of transported boulders covers much of the Oolitic outcrops, but the ice-sheet to which its formation is attributed is not known to have crossed the Chiltern Hills. Along the valleys there are more recent deposits of fluviatile gravel in which palæolithic implements and remains of extinct mammalia have been discovered. Much of the chalk is overspread by a nondescript deposit, known as the clay-with-flints, which appears to be in the main a relic of Tertiary strata; in the same region there are many sarsen-stones or grey wethers, masses of hardened sand or pebbles left

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

lying upon the chalk after the washing away of the Tertiary beds in which they were formed.

IV. FLORA¹ AND FAUNA

(a) *Flora*.—Buckinghamshire may be divided into two parts—the North and South—which differ widely in their botany. For botanical purposes it is the more general custom to use the various systems of river drainage as botanical areas. The county has two such—the portions drained respectively by the Ouse and the Thames. Treating them broadly, we find that the botany of one differs considerably from that of the other. (1) The district drained by the Ouse, when occasionally it is marked by gravelly material, as at Westbury Common, gives a heath Flora with such plants as *Calluna Erica*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Galium hercynicum*, and *Agrostis canina*, which differs greatly from the flora of the immediate neighbourhood. In other places, as near Winslow, the Clover (*Trifolium striatum*) may be found. A great extent of the country is stiff clay, and on this impervious soil the Great

¹ By G. Claridge Druce, M.A., F.L.S., author of *The Flora of Oxfordshire, of Berkshire and of Northamptonshire*. At the present time the botany of the county is not thoroughly investigated, nor has any general Flora been published. The writer has, however, for the last few years been engaged in compiling such a work, and has been able to bring the knowledge of the botany of the county, so far as its salient features are concerned, to some degree of completeness. He would be glad to receive any information upon the subject from any local worker, addressed to him at 118 High Street, Oxford.

FLORA

Horsetail grows. The hedges offer a shelter for the Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and their borders for the stately Teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*), the Groundsel (*Senecio erucifolius*), the Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), the Stone Parsley (*Sison Amomum*), and, in the badly-drained pastures, the Rest Harrow (*Ononis spinosa*) is very common. The hedgerows on the clay have as a frequent constituent the Hawthorn (*Cratægus oxyacanthoides*), a species with larger fruit and with different venation of the leaves from the commoner plant (*C. Oxyacantha*). The Cornel (*Cornus sanguinea*) is common, and when calcareous matter is present in the soil we have the Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*), the Spindle-tree (*Euonymus europæus*); while on limestone soils the Traveller's Joy (*Clematis Vitalba*) is abundant. The woodlands, spinneys and coppices of Great Brickhill, Great Horwood, Moulsoe and Whaddon Chase are also often on clay; and then the grass (*Calamagrostis epigeios*) is common. At Great Brickhill the Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) occurs. The Throat-wort (*Campanula latifolia*) occurs near Lillingstone. The Violets include *Viola sylvestris*. The Creeping Tormantil (*Potentilla procumbens*) is found near Lillingstone, etc. The Great Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella major*) is rather widely distributed, as at Shalbourn, Akeley, Westbury, Brickhill, and Moulsoe, and sometimes as the variety *dissecta*. The Cowwheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) is local, and likes a more porous soil. On a rough, clayey common near Westbury the Great Woolly-headed Thistle (*Carduus eriophorus*) grows in great quantity, and, very sparingly, in

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

the same neighbourhood grows the Dyer's Weed (*Genista tinctoria*). Both Bur Marigolds are found, *Bidens tripartita* being common, but *B. cernua* is very local, although common at Black Pond, near Stowe. The Water Buttercups include *Ranunculus fluitans*, *R. penicillatus*, *R. divaricatus*, and in ponds *R. heterophyllus*, *R. Drouetii*, and various forms of *R. peltatus* occur. *Zannichellia palustris* is not uncommon, especially near Wavendon; while the Charads, *Chara hispida* (Brickhill), *C. fragilis*, *C. vulgaris*, *C. contraria*, and *Tolypella glomerata* (Brickhill) also are found. The Bur-reeds *Sparganium erectum* and *neglectum* are not rare, and sometimes the beautiful sedge *Carex Pseudo-cyperus* may be seen as at Moulsoe and Brickhill. The Brambles are but poorly represented. A form of *Rubus nitidus* occurs at Shalbourn, perfectly typical *R. pubescens* at Westbury Wild, *R. Radula* is common often as the var. *echinatoides*, *R. echinatus* is not unfrequent, and *R. adornatus* occurs near Great Horwood, while *R. rosaceus* grows near Buffler's Holt as the var. *infecundus*. *R. rhombifolius* is found near Linslade. *R. dasyphyllus* is widely distributed. The roses include *Rosa tomentosa*, Sm. (which is *R. mollissima*, Willd), and this prefers a lighter soil and hilly ground. The Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris*) may occasionally be seen in pastures and woodridings. True marshes and boggy ground are rare, but there are patches near Winslow and Soulsbury, and then we may notice the Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), the Bog Rush (*Schænus nigricans*), the Sedges (*Carex flava*), etc. Here, too, grow the Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), the

FLORA

Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*), and other marsh-loving plants. Another marsh near Linslade has a considerable growth of the Rush *Juncus diffusus* with the Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), the Sheep-rot (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*). The Adders-tongue is not rare in meadows where the Great Burnet (*Poterium officinale*) also grows, and where the soil is calcareous the beautiful grass *Avena pubescens* may be found, and the Green-veined Orchis (*O. morio*) is locally abundant. The Sweet-flag *Acorus Calamus* grows by the Ouse at Stratford, and the flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) is frequent. The grass-leaved Pea (*Lathyrus Nissolia*) has been found near Wavendon, where the Sessile-fruited Oak (*Quercus sessiliflora*) also grows.

Two plants occur in Brickhill Woods in great quantity—the Huckleberry (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*), and the Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*), and are not found elsewhere in North Bucks. They are also the only home for a bramble, *Rubus hirtus* var. *flaccidifolius*. The Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*) also occurs in the vicinities, and many Brambles, such as *Rubus fissus*, *R. plicatus*, etc. The boggy portions afford the Sedges *Carex echinata*, *C. flava*, *C. rostrata*, the Rush (*Juncus supinus*), the Lancashire Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*—very local, *Lastrea Thelypteris*, *L. dilatata*, *L. spinulosa*, *Blechnum Spicant*, the Horse-tail (*Equisetum maximum*), the Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), the Grasses *Sieglingia decumbens*, *Molinia varia*.

The open heathland exhibits the Sheep's Scabious (*Jasione montana*), the Golden-rod

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(*Solidago Virgaurea*), the Hawkweeds *Hieracium boreale* and *H. umbellatum*, the Buckshorn Plantain (*Plantago Coronopus*), the Hemlock-leaves Cranesbill (*Erodium cicutarium*), the Speedwell *Veronica officinalis* (often with pink flowers), the Clovers *Trifolium striatum* and *T. arvense*, the Dog Violet *Viola canina*, the Sandwort *Arenaria rubra*, the Chickweeds *Cerastium semidecandrum* and *C. arvense*, the Cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*)—often in the greatest abundance—the Swine's Succory (*Arnoseris pusilla*), the Heaths *Calluna Erica* and *Erica cinerea*, the Creeping Fumitory *Capnoides claviculata*, the Tansy *Tanacetum officinale*, *Myosotis collina*, the Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*, the Gromwell *Lithospermum officinale*, *Anthriscus vulgaris*. The Celery *Apium graveolens* occurs near Simpson, the Rose Willow herb *Epilobium roseum* near Salford, and the Grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* near Olney, where the limestone comes to the surface. *Lotus tenuis* has been found near Swanbourn, the Bitter Cress *Cardamine amara*, the Club Rush *Eleocharis acicularis*, the Sedges *C. acuta* and *C. paniculata*, the Grasses *Bromus racemosus* and *Lolium festucaceum* near Wolverton.

The Thames district resembles, to a considerable extent, the Ouse district, except that a portion of the chalk escarpment is included in it, on which are found such plants as the Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*), the Meadow Sage (*Salvia pratensis*), the Bedstraw (*Galium sylvestre*), the Bittercress *Iberis amara*, the Orchids *Orchis pyramidalis*, *Habenaria conopsea*, etc. The Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa Belladonna*), the Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), several Fumarias and Milk-

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worts *Polygala oxyptera*, etc., the Lady's Fingers (*Anthyllis Vulneraria*), the Canterbury Bell (*Campanula glomerata*), the Ragwort (*Senecio campestris*), the Squinancy Wort *Asperula cynanchica*, the Horse-shoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*), the Rock Rose (*Helianthemum Chamaecistus*), the Roses *R. micrantha*, *R. rubiginosa*, etc.

The hilly district of Brill affords the Henbane *Hyoscyamus niger*, the Hound's tongue *Cynoglossum officinale*, the Roses *Rosa glauca* and *R. systyla*; the cultivated ground affords *Crepis taraxacifolia* and *C. biennis*; the waysides *Caucalis nodosa* and *Carum segetum*. *Carex vesicaria* occurs near Wotton Underwood; *Sedum dasyphyllum* (Marsh Gibbon), the Snakeshead (*Fritillaria Meleagris*) near Aylesbury, the Fiddle-dock near Long Crendon, *Carex axillaris* near Princes Risborough, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* at Bledlow, *Ranunculus parviflorus* near Risborough, *Orchis latifolia* and *Carex Hornschuchiana* near Wendover, *Alopecurus fulvus*, *Typha angustifolia*, *Cerastium aquaticum*, *Salix Smithiana*, etc., near Halton. South Buckinghamshire is entirely in the Thames drainage, one portion being drained by the Colne, another by the Chess, while a third is drained by the Wye—or, as it is usually called, the Wycombe brook—and another by the main stream of the Thames. In South Bucks is the large area of the chalk formation, as well as that covered with more recent deposits—brick earth, tertiary gravels, etc., the London clay and low-level gravels. The flora of the Chalk has already been alluded to, but we may add to those plants already mentioned as occurring in North Bucks,

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Aquilegia vulgaris *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Cardamine bulbifera* *Hieracium murorum*, *Helleborus viridis*, *Iris fœtidissima*, *Hypericum montanum*, *H. Androsæmum*, *Helleborus fœtidus*, *Daphne Mezereum*, and *Calamintha parvifolia*, the latter being abundant in many parts above Wycombe, Chalfont and Bulstrode.

The extensive commons have in addition to many plants enumerated for North Bucks *Ulex nanus*, *Cuscuta Epithymum*, *Carex binervis*, *Erica Tetralix*, *Salix repens*, *Actinocarpus*, *Echinodorus ranunculoides*, *Peplis Portula*, *Apium inundatum*, *Cerastium quaternellum*, *Genista anglica*, *Millegrana Radiola*, *Centunculus*, *Salix repens*, *Viola canina*, *Ornithopus perpusillus*, *Ranunculus parviflorus*, *Hieracium tridentatum*, *H. sciaphilum*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Littorella*, *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, *Pyrola minor*, *Epipactis palustris*. Burnham Beeches affords a large number of species such as *Carduus pratensis*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *P. palustris*, *Scirpus cæspitosus*, *S. multicaulis*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *D. longifolia*, *Viola palustris*, etc. Other commons, such as Stoke Poges, Farnham, Dropmore and Iver also have an interesting vegetation, and we find *Trifolium subterraneum*, *T. arvense*, *T. striatum*, *Sagina subulata*, *Lycopodium inundatum*, *Mentha Pulegium*, *Anthemis nobilis*, *Myriophyllum alternifolium*, *Chara fragilis* *Nitella opaca*, *N. flexilis*, *Ranunculus Lingua*, *Carex vesicaria*, *Salix repens*, and *S. ambigua*. The woods at Black Park, Penn, Chesham, Wycombe, Marlow and Dropmore have a rich variety of plants. Here have been found *Rhamnus Frangula*, *Carex canescens*, *C. lævigata*, *C. strigosa*, *C. elata*,

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Polygonatum multiflorum, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Lathræa Squamaria*, *Juncoides Forsteri*, *Elymus europæus* (on the chalk), *Potentilla procumbens*, *Myosotis repens*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Atropa Belladonna* and *Cardamine bulbifera*.

The meadows through which the Chess passes from Chesham to Chenies contain *Polygonum minus*, *Bidens cernua*, *Sagina nodosa*, *Mimulus Langsdorffii*, in great plenty, as well as *Pedicularis palustris*; in the low grounds near the Chalfonts are *Epilobium roseum*, *Scirpus caricis*, *Orchis latifolia*, *Rosa systyla*; and by the Colne *Impatiens biflora* is a most abundant plant. The meadows near that stream have *Carex paniculata*, *C. paradoxa* (very rarely), while *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* is in the water itself. *Ceanothe crocata* is frequent. Near Iver *Polygonum dumetorum*, *P. mite*, *Fumaria Boræi*, *Arabis perfoliata* and *Carea elata* grow, and *Mentha rubra* and *M. piperita* occur on the higher ground near Iver Heath, where *Dianthus Armeria*, *Geranium lucidum*, *Orobanche Rapum-genistæ* and *Lepidium Smithii* also may be seen.

On the gravel pits about Taplow *Lactuca virosa* is frequent, and here occurs *Jasione* and the beautiful grass *Apera Spiva-venti*; *Dipsacus pilosus* grows near Cliveden; *Hypericum elodes*, *Littorella*, *Scutellaria minor*, etc., at Dropmore.

Stachys annua has been found in cornfields near Wycombe, *Bromus arvensis* at Little Missenden. *B. secalinus* is sometimes very abundant, as near Wycombe; *Chenopodium hybridum* has been found at Beaconsfield, and *Peucedanum palustre* occurs with *Lysimachia thyrsoiflora* at Bulstrode, the relics probably of the Duchess of Portland's fondness

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for the science. *Salvia Verbenaca*, *Campanula Rapunculus* occur near Medmenham, as does *Astragalus glycyphyllos*. The heaths and gravelly commons and woods give a rich variety of brambles, etc.

The woods of the county in the north consist usually of Oak (*Quercus pedunculata*) with an undergrowth of Sloe (*Prunus spinosa*), the Water Elder (*Viburnum Opulus*), the Willows *Salix caprea*, *S. cinerea* and *S. aurita* in damp places, or occasionally of Maple (*Acer campestre*), and Hazel (*Corylus Avellana*), where calcareous soil predominates. The Crab (*Pyrus Malus*) is not unfrequent, especially on wood borders. At Brickhill there are plantations of Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Larch (*Larix europæa*) and a few Birch (*Betula alba*) and Aspen (*Populus tremula*). In the lower parts of the county the Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*) is common, and *P. alba* and *canescens* are to be seen. Noble examples of the Wych Elm (*Ulmus campestris*) occur, and in few places are finer specimens of the Common Elm (*Ulmus sativa*) to be seen than in the Thames Valley. The Maple (*Acer campestre*) often grows into fair-sized trees as about Moulsoe; while the Lime (*Tilia europæa*) is only a planted tree, as is its relation, *Tilia parvifolia*, of which a fine tree grows at Westbury. On the chalk the Yew is native and not uncommon, and here, too, will be found good examples of the Holly (*Ilex Aquifolium*). A specially interesting feature of the northern chalk escarpment is the Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) which above Eddlesborough and near Ellesborough, at Velvet Lawn, is quite

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naturalised, if indeed, as some think, it is not native. Here it seeds freely and some fine old specimens are to be seen. It is common knowledge that Buckinghamshire is famous for the Beech, which overspreads the southern slopes of the Chilterns.

Another characteristic tree of the chalk is the Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betulus*), which is very common, especially on the eastern border of the county, and there are some fair-sized trees near Beaconsfield.

The Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is common on the escarpment as at Princes Risborough, Halton, etc., and it is also found on Naphill Common and in Burnham Beeches, where, however, the chalk is only covered with a thin deposit. There are good specimens of *Pyrus Aria* in many situations, and it is a common feature in hedges and wood-borders on the chalk.

In the north of the county the Cherry (*Prunus avium*) is the prevailing form, but is often only naturalised; but in the south the prevailing species is *P. Cerasus*, which is very frequent, and a native tree. There is a good specimen in Bulstrode Park.

Isolated examples of the Service tree *Pyrus torminalis* occur, as at Fulmer, etc. At Black Park there are extensive plantations of Larch, Pine, and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), but the latter does not appear to be native. In the peaty meadows, as near Eton, Burnham Beeches, etc., the Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) occurs, while the Thames Valley shows splendid specimens of the Willows *Salix alba*, *S. fragilis*, *Populus nigra*, *P.*

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alba and *P. canescens*, with the planted Lombardy Poplar. On some of these the Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is rather frequent, as well as occasionally on the Lime.

The Ash (*Fraxinus elatior*) is widely distributed but is better grown on calcareous soil.

(*b*) *Fauna*.—Of the Fauna of the county it is unnecessary to speak in detail ; it is similar to that of all the southern-midland counties. In all the copses the nightingale is found in great numbers but often in odd irregularity, while the valleys of the Ouse and the Thame are the haunts of many but not uncommon water fowl.

V. POPULATION AND INDUSTRIES

From the description given of the county of Buckingham it will be seen that its population is chiefly engaged in agriculture. Its towns, with the exception of High Wycombe and Slough, are small, and, depending as they do on the trade of the surrounding rural districts, are necessarily affected by their prosperity or ill fortune. At the Census of 1911 the population of the county of Buckingham was 219,551, of Buckingham 3282, of Aylesbury 11,048, of High Wycombe 24,557. The population of the county in 1901 was 185,284; in 1831, 138,982. Agriculture, then, is the main occupation of the inhabitants from the meadows of Olney to the extensive pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury, and from the summits of the Chilterns to the

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banks of the Thames. It varies greatly in character, and nothing can be more in contrast than the enormous pastures, the immemorial grazing grounds which stretch about the brooks which wind between Winslow and Aylesbury, and the flinty ploughs which are to be found on the southern slopes of the Chilterns, and upon which meagre crops of corn are raised among the still numerous woodlands. Its industries, other than that of the agriculturist, are purely rural. Two of these are peculiar to the county. One—that of chair making—is in truth part of the pursuit of the woodland industry created by the extensive beech woods of South Buckinghamshire. Its headquarters are at High Wycombe, which is unquestionably the busiest place in the county.

The rise of the lace-making industry of Buckinghamshire, essentially a homely handicraft harmonising well with the tranquil character and scenery of the county, has been ascribed to two different causes. The first that it was established by a number of Flemish lace-makers who emigrated to England from the Low Countries to escape from Spanish tyranny. They settled in the north-east of the county, chiefly about Newport Pagnell and the surrounding villages, and in an adjoining part of Bedfordshire, and the industry gradually extended to Handslope on the west and Olney on the east. But it is hardly likely that foreign lace-makers would have settled in this particular part of England had they not known that there existed in it an industry similar to that which they carried on in

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their own land. It was probably this knowledge which caused French emigrants to come to Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire in 1794. For the other cause we are referred to the residence of Katherine of Aragon at Ampthill in and on the borders of Bedfordshire from 1531 to 1533 pending her appeal to the Pope. She was proficient in the art of needlework, and there is good reason to suppose that she solaced herself not only by practising the art, but by spreading it among the surrounding peasantry ; and until the latter half of the 19th century "Cattarns" Day, November 25th, was kept as the annual holiday of the lace-makers. (Palliser, *History of English Lace*, 4th ed., 1902, p. 383.) As time went on a knowledge of the art of lace-making extended throughout the county of Buckinghamshire, and De Foe, who used to travel over every part of England, says of Aylesbury : "Many of the poor here are employed in making lace for edgings not much inferior to those of Flanders ; but it is some pleasure to us to observe that the English are not the only nation in the world which admires foreign manufactures above its own, since the French, who gave fashions to most nations, buy d'Angleterre or English laces ;" and of Newport Pagnell he says : "The town carries on a great trade in bone lace, and the same manufacture employs all neighbouring villages ;" while Don Manuel Gonzales, in 1730, speaks of its lace as little inferior to that of Flanders. It was practised alike by men and women, and in 1801 out of the 1275 inhabitants of Hanslope 800 were lace-makers. In the middle of last

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century the number had declined to 500; to-day not more than 50 can be found who understand how to make lace, and who practise the art at all. In several of the larger villages schools existed for its teaching. So long ago as 1626 Sir Henry Borlase founded and erected the free school of Great Marlow for twenty-four boys and for twenty-four girls to knit, spin, and make bone lace, and though as an industry it has decreased, to this day it is a special if a minor industry of the county.

Buckinghamshire lace is, and has been always, pillow lace, but there are two kinds differing in pattern though not in their manner of manufacture—bone or bobbin and pillow point. But this use of the word point is inaccurate, since point lace is, strictly speaking, lace made with a needle on a parchment pattern; each kind is, however, by no means difficult of imitation, and the demand for it is so fluctuating as to prevent it at the present time from being a large or continuously flourishing business. But now, as two or three centuries ago, the manner of working is the same, and in many parts of Buckinghamshire one may see a woman with the large round pillow on her lap, to which the paper whereon the pattern of the work is drawn is marked out and fastened by a number of pins, round which the thread is worked by quickly moving bone bobbins. It is an industry which appeals little to the youth of the present day. It has never been better described than by Cowper

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with his singular power of depicting the local life around him :—

“Yon cottager, who weaves at her own door
Pillow and bobbins all her little store ;
Content though mean, and cheerful if not gay,
Shuffling her threads about the livelong day,
Just earns a scanty pittance ; and at night
Lies down secure, her heart and pocket light ;
She, for her humble sphere by nature fit,
Has little understanding, and no wit.”

North of the Chilterns there are still to be found quarries which have been used from very ancient times, such as that of the well-known Portland stone at Hartwell, where a clay between the stone and the Kemeridge clay was obtained by the Romans for pottery, and is now used for bricks. But these are mere sporadic occupations and give no character to the county, which, in spite of its length and differences of soil and scenery, is thus singularly homogeneous. The rearing of large white ducks—known as Aylesbury ducks—is much practised in the farms and villages in the low-lying district to the north of the Chilterns, while in the valleys to the south of them, especially about Chesham and Wycombe, the cultivation of watercress employs many persons.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

(a) *Roads*.—Of roads the most noticeable is the main road which enters the county on its S.E. border near Little Brickhill, and runs north-west-

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ward to Stony Stratford, covering throughout its distance the ancient Watling Street. From east to west are also two modern roads which are identical with portions of the Upper and Lower Icknield ways, which were ancient British highways, along the northern base of the Chilterns, the former entering the county near Eddlesborough and leaving it at Bledlow. There is yet another road, which entering the county at Aston Clinton runs north-west through Aylesbury, and is the same as the old Akeman Street.

These highways have in former days been sometimes called Roman work, sometimes British, but there can be no doubt that they were aboriginal tracts which were improved and utilised by each succeeding generation whether Roman or Saxon. This is obvious when the Upper Icknield way is followed throughout its length, for one there sees how there must always have been a necessary road—raised above the marshes and mud of the meadows of the vale and below the steep slopes which mark the higher parts of the northern face of the Chilterns. No road is more delightful, presenting at every turn extensive and agreeable views—on the one hand, the distant fields dotted with villages and hedges, and on the other, the varying forms of the uprising hills. A large number of the roads of Buckinghamshire are now so-called main roads, and under the control of the County Council, though, in fact, the distinction between main and district roads is by no means easy to define. The chief of these roads is the main highway from London, which enters the county at Denham, and thence runs to High

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Wycombe and through the ranges of the Chilterns to Oxford. At the top of Red Hill, Denham, this road bifurcates, and another main road continues up the Misbourne valley to Aylesbury. From this town, in addition to the Bicester road and the Leighton Buzzard or Bedfordshire road, one trunk road runs north-east to Winslow, Buckingham and Brackley, and another westwards to Thame in Oxfordshire. The eastern and western portions of central Bucks are connected by a fine main road from Aylesbury to Linslade (Leighton Buzzard). Yet another important road runs nearly due east from Wolverton through Newport Pagnell and Emberton to Olney and thence to the Bedfordshire border near Lavendon—one of the best roads in the county. The character of both the main and the district roads is largely influenced by the range of the Chilterns, north of it the highways are usually broad and generally repaired with granite, and especially in the extreme north are as good as any roads in England, immediately southward of the range they are narrow and flinty highways, except in the case of the two main roads already mentioned, and no systematic effort has yet been made to meet increasing traffic by improvements either in width or contour.

Those who wish to cross the Chilterns from N. to S. should be careful to take a road which leads through one of the four “gaps” in these hills. These are, taking them from E. to W., the Herts “gap,” that is, the opening through which the London and North-Western Railway passes near Tring; the Wendover “gap,” which

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has been used by the Metropolitan Railway; the "gap" in which Chequer's Court stands, and which is reached from Butler's Cross; and the Risborough "gap," through which the Great Western Railway passes from High Wycombe. The ascent from N. to S. by any of the roads through these "gaps" is easy; the other roads across the hills are steep and fatiguing. The road from Butler's Cross to Great Missenden, though by far the worst of these highways, is unquestionably the most picturesque.

(b) *Railways and Canals.*—The Metropolitan Railway runs through the centre of the county, from its border near Chenies to Verney Junction, having a small branch W. to Brill. On the east is the London and North-Western Railway, with several branches. The W. of the county is chiefly served by the Great Western Railway and its branches. Another line with connections to Paddington and Marylebone is from Denham to Princes Risborough Junction the joint line of the Great Western and Great Central Railways. It divides at Princes Risborough, one line is then part of the Great Western system to Oxford, the other is part of the Great Central system and forms a direct communication with Rugby and the north. From Princes Risborough also a Great Western Branch runs to Aylesbury. A portion of the South-Western system is also in the county, and in the north is a bit of the Midland line—for details of above see map. The Grand Junction Canal traverses the east and west of the county.

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VII. ANTIQUITIES

The County of Buckingham has no important prehistoric remains. To the age of the Britons may perhaps be ascribed some of the so-called camps, mere grassy mounds near which are indications of rude ditches. Of these the best known is the striking earth-work which is popularly called Cymbeline's Mount or Kimble Castle, close to Ellesborough, tradition having rashly connected it with the rule of King Cunobelinus. It is possible enough that this chief, whose headquarters were at Camulodunum (Colchester) but who also possessed Verulamium (St Albans) should have had a fortified post on the spurs of the Chilterns which project northwards into the Vale of Aylesbury and dominate the fertile fields at their feet. But to identify this so-called fort with a particular chieftain is to venture from surmise to unfounded assertion of a fact.

Of the Romano-British period which concluded in the fifth century there are no important remains. Villas at High Wycombe, Latimers and Hambledon, coins and vases discovered at these places, at Fenny Stratford and at Weston Turville, indicate the existence of Roman civilisation in parts of the county, though it was one of the more thinly inhabited spaces of Roman Britain.

To the Romano-British age has also been ascribed the so-called pile dwelling discovered at Hedsor near the banks of the Thames in 1895,

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which consisted of oak and beech piles and a flooring of oak and brushwood ; a spearhead, remnants of pottery, and bones of small oxen and red deer were also found. The dwelling must evidently have been overwhelmed by a winter's flood, and have been gradually covered by mud and earth.

Skeletons ascribed to the time of the Anglo-Saxons were discovered at Dinton, and a single skeleton with remains of a shield on the Chilterns near Marsworth has been considered to belong to this age, as well as some vessels found at Taplow, which all rest in the British Museum.

VIII. ARCHITECTURE

(a) *Churches and their Contents.*—If Buckinghamshire does not possess a cathedral it has, on the other hand, a great number of mediæval village churches, hardly one of which is without some feature of interest, and these many buildings, covering the county from Lavendon in the north to Horton and Wraysbury in the south, form an aggregate of no little archæological and historical importance. The sequence is never broken—village succeeds village each with its mediæval church, so that looking on the county from a detached point of view one perceives how admirable an example it affords of the ecclesiastical appearance of mediæval England in the middle of the 16th century, when the development of ecclesiastical architecture ceased, for the good reason that every town and village had now

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its church. It exhibits continuous and reasoned development, and changes both practical and artistic.

If we endeavour to classify the Buckinghamshire churches topographically, they may be introduced with the Olney group, which, having in its centre the Early Decorated church by the Ouse, is formed by several churches, which lie within a few miles of each other in the north of the county, and are generally dignified and important. The most notable are Emberton, Sherrington, Clifton Reynes, and Lavendon. Somewhat more to the south we come upon another group lying not far from the Northamptonshire border, which includes the fine Decorated churches of Hanslope and Milton Keynes—the former one of the few which has a spire, and thereby indicates the influence of the Midland district. Another group is that which contains the churches in the area between Buckingham on the north-west and Bletchley on the south-east, and from the Ouse in the north to North Marston in the south. It consists of small churches in which whatever was the original style, Perpendicular windows of marked and conspicuous character, have been largely and generally inserted. These details stamp this district with an architectural individuality which is emphasised by the fact that almost in its centre we find the Perpendicular tower of Great Horwood, that in Maids' Moreton close to Buckingham, we have the finest Perpendicular church in the county, and at Hillesden, not ten miles to the south-west, another church in the same style not inferior except for its tower to

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Maids Moreton. We may perhaps surmise that the influence of a single architect is visible in all these churches. The Vale of Aylesbury, that is to say, the country from Stewkley to Wing on the E. and to Marsh Gibbon and Chetwode and Haddenham on the W. is marked by many admirable churches varied in character. Except Maids Moreton and Hillesden they show in most cases architectural changes extending over a long period of time, from the 11th to the end of the 15th century. Along the northern edge of the Chilterns, on the last spurs of the hills, we find yet another group from Edlesborough on the E. to Bledlow on the W., a line of buildings intermediate between the larger churches of the vale and centre of the county, and the poorer buildings of southern Buckinghamshire, but every one suggestive and interesting. To the W. of the Wycombe Valley there are also a few churches on the heights of the Chilterns, all of them small and generally largely constructed of flint, but not wanting in many details of interest, and which, by their situation, deserve a separate division, and may conveniently be called the West Chiltern group. Of the characteristics of the churches S. of the high line of the Chilterns we have already spoken.

Of complete examples of any one of the well-recognised styles of mediæval English architecture there are few. The chief are—of Norman, Stewkley; of Early English, the chancel at Chetwode; of Decorated, the perfect, if cold and academic, church of Olney, and a building which gives a better idea of the fertility of imagination

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and wealth of design which characterises Decorated work, the church of Milton Keynes; of Perpendicular, Maids Moreton, Hillesden and North Marston are the best examples.

At the end of this summary of the architecture of the county one may note that the hamlet of Gawcott, a mile and a half to the S.W. of Buckingham, was the birthplace of Sir Gilbert Scott (1811-1878), of which at the time his father held the perpetual curacy. Scott regarded himself as scarcely a Buckinghamshire man—clergymen like his father being so much birds of passage—but it would not be easy to find one who was more closely connected by parentage with the county, for his father was born at Weston Underwood, of which his grandfather was curate in 1780. The following year he removed to Olney, where he became the friend of Cowper as he had been of John Newton. Gilbert Scott was a singularly impressionable boy, and unquestionably the old churches which were to be found in the villages about his home had a permanent influence on his life and career. In early boyhood he wandered from village to village with his pencil, and in his *Recollections* he has left a vivid description of his first visit to the beautiful E.E. chancel at Chetwode.

The influence of the architecture of the county was still present when he left his home in 1826, for he went to live and study with his uncle, the Rev. Samuel King, at Latimers. Again, after the conclusion of his pupilage in 1831, he spent two weeks at Gawcott studying and sketching the churches which he could reach. From that date Scott was removed by his work from the county,

ROOD SCREENS

but it was to the last in his thoughts, and he found no greater pleasure than in helping to restore the churches which he knew so well.

(1) *Rood Screens and Carving*.—Of wood carving, more especially of rood screens—and every mediæval church had something in the nature of a barrier or screen between the chancel and the nave—there are few examples left. Of them the most noticeable are at Edlesborough, North Crawley and at Hillesden. The Edlesborough screen, with the stalls which are attached to it, gives us a perfect impression of the mediæval chancel. The universal use of the rood screen seems also to explain the purpose of the hagioscope—or the squint-hole as it is more popularly called—which is found in some churches, giving a side view into the chancel, enabling a person, whether an attendant or a member of the congregation, to see into the chancel, which was hidden by the rood screen from the nave. Of other forms of designs in wood there is one remarkable example—the pulpit and sounding-board at Edlesborough, which in abundance of detail and delicacy of execution may be ranked with the masterpieces of wood carving. The oldest piece of woodwork in the county is probably the carved E.E. arch, with dog-tooth ornament, in the church at Upton.

(2) *Mural Paintings*.—In several churches remains of mural paintings exist—some of which have been recently discovered—as at Little Kimble, Maids Moreton, Little Horwood, Little Hampden, Great Hampden, Whitchurch, Bledlow and Chalfont St Giles. Of these the most interesting are at Little Hampden. They are remarkable as early works of art and as indicating the general use of mural pictures in the mediæval churches of England.

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(3) *Fonts*.—The fonts in the churches of Buckinghamshire are of much archæological and artistic importance. As indications of the age of the churches in which they are found they often are of no little value, and in themselves they are interesting from their form, design, and execution. The point which is perhaps most noticeable is the existence of many Norman fonts, those at Aylesbury, Monks Risborough, Bledlow, Stone, and Great Kimble, for instance, have survived the changes of religion, the violence of iconoclasts and the alterations of architectural fashion. Though oftentimes somewhat rude in execution these 12th-century fonts show a power and a wealth of design which appealed to men of more recent times, and caused them to be preserved when the plainer Norman work was entirely destroyed. In fonts of later date the county is not so rich, but that at Leckhampstead is of great value and beauty.

(4) *Brasses*.—As remarkable as the fonts are the monumental brasses which are to be found all over Buckinghamshire, extending from the middle of the 13th to the end of 16th century, when this durable form of memorial prevailed, a period which commenced and ended with a singular abruptness in Buckinghamshire as in the rest of England. We may be surprised to find an art of a somewhat elaborate kind so abundant in a poor secluded district such as was the space of woodlands and valleys which extended from the Chilterns to the Colne. But we must remember that it was at no great distance from London, the headquarters of a number of artists in brass, whose work is to be

BRASSES

found in the country from the Metropolis to the Vale of Aylesbury.

The Bucks brasses are usually small, and commemorate men of no great social importance, but who seized the opportunity to leave to posterity their own or the likenesses of their relatives, unknown Englishmen who in their own day, in a sequestered vale of life, passed the noiseless tenor of their way, but who, thanks to this art, have, by a somewhat singular irony of fate, left to distant generations their effigies when those of men who played a much more striking part have long disappeared.

But though the monumental brasses recall the names of men and women who would otherwise have long ceased to be remembered except in musty parish registers and old title-deeds, they also remind us that oftentimes in the past one generation cared very little for the memory of that which had gone before. The palimpsest brass is at once a memorial to the person who is chronologically most lately portrayed upon it, and is, on the other hand evidence of the small degree of piety for the past in the persons by whom it was ordered. For whether a palimpsest brass be one which has had a figure drawn on the reverse or blank side (like that at Denham church) so that when placed on the tomb the original effigy is hidden perhaps for ever, or whether it be one which has had the original design completely or partially destroyed, as in the Brass to Sir R^d Hanson, Vicar, 1545, at Chalfont St Peter's, by that of the more recent artist, it is in either case a curious instance of some-

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thing approaching to impiety and want of filial feeling. It is, no doubt, an example of the artist's ingenuity, and probably also of the scarcity of the necessary metal, but it is perhaps most interesting as showing the absence of reverence for the monuments of the past in the 16th and 17th centuries.

An observation of the Buckinghamshire brasses shows the cause of the decline of the art of the brass worker in England as in other countries. Towards the middle of the 16th century there grew a desire for a more realistic treatment of monuments. We see it in the colouring on the fine tomb of Anne, Countess of Warwick (d. 1604), in the chapel at Chenies, and in the recumbent figure of the girl reclining on her elbow as in repose in the Brudenell monument at Stoke Mandeville. This tendency gradually produced the often hideous exaggeration of Jacobean monumental sculpture. Now and then it is to be found in a brass, as in that at Wendover, to William Bradschawe, Gent. 1537, and that at Tingewick to Erasmus Williams, which are attempts at portraiture.

A still more striking example of the pictorial treatment of brasses is to be noted in the monument (1595) in Datchet church to Richard Hanbury, citizen, and goldsmith of London, and Ales, his wife. The plate is oblong, the man in a gown kneels at a desk, opposite to him his wife in a large ruff; books lie open between them. This is a picture on brass, and emphasises the limitation of the metal workers' range, whose art was sufficient when men were satisfied with mere outlined figures, without distinctive personal or facial characteristics.

SECULAR BUILDINGS

(5) *Monuments*.—Monuments, from the severe stone effigies of the Crusader to the florid groups of the 18th century, are an interesting and suggestive feature in the churches of Buckinghamshire. The most famous monuments are those in the Russell Chapel at Chenies, and the mediæval wooden effigies at Clifton Reynes. Very fine also is the tomb of Lord Keeper Finch at Ravenstone, while the Lee monument at Aylesbury is a good specimen of the sculptor's art of the 17th century. All the important monuments are noted in the description of the several places where they are now to be found.

(b) *Secular Buildings*.—Turning to secular buildings, of this class there are many suggestive examples, though of the post-Conquest castles the mere fragments are now only to be found. In most villages was at one time a manor house, and not a few of these have survived. We may lament the loss of Hillesden House, but we still can see among others the manor houses of Dinton and Hambledon, of Swanbourne and of Marsh Gibbon, the White House at Middle Claydon and the Creslow Manor House at Whitchurch. In the mellow colouring and picturesque but reposeful design of these old buildings we have a marked contrast to modern buildings in which a palpable but often unsuccessful effort to produce a house which shall be effective in design, has led to exaggeration and eccentricity. These manor houses, though not great in size, have a social and historical importance which makes them as valuable monuments as larger buildings, such as Chequer's Court or the would-be palace at Stowe, or Gayhurst or Claydon Houses. Dinton and Dunton Halls have each and

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all architectural interests, indeed it is impossible to traverse many miles of the country without finding, often unexpectedly, some domestic building which shows us how our forefathers lived. Nor should the innumerable cottages built in the 16th and 17th centuries be overlooked, at once picturesque and comfortable, warm in winter and cool in summer, with their heavily-thatched roofs and with thick walls crossed by woodwork, which will yet outlast the productions of the modern jerry builders. Again, the almshouses at Amersham, Quainton, Wing, Shenley and Sherrington—we enumerate only a few—are examples of buildings a little more ambitious than the peasant's cottage, less in size but not less interesting than the manor houses, as illustrations not only of a form of domestic architecture but of social habits and customs, and of a form of relief in old age which at anyrate preserves something of the feeling of a home.

IX. HISTORY

Buckinghamshire in the British and the Romano-British age was only a poor pastoral and woodland tract of land. Subsequently it formed part of the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia, but the occupation of the Teutonic race is evidenced only by the nomenclature of many towns and villages, telling of the existence of numerous communities. In Buckingham, Aylesbury, Chalfont, Denham, taking these places as examples in a line from the N. to the S. of the

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county, everyone Anglo-Saxon in its origin, we have indications of the age in question.

The devotion of the Normans and their immediate successors to the Church is visible throughout the richest portions of Buckinghamshire, from the valley of the Ouse to the valley of the Thames, the fragments of Notley and Burnham Abbeys, the churches of Stewkley and Wing, are striking indications both of the religious zeal and of the flourishing state of the Norman landowners during the 12th and 13th centuries. But of the numerous religious houses before the dissolution of the monasteries with which the county was studded — Biddlesden, Lavendon, Ravenstone, Missenden, and Bradwell—hardly a trace remains.

Buckinghamshire affords many illustrations of the amazing alteration which was caused in the social and proprietorial condition of England by the Conquest. An extraordinary change of the ownership of its land followed this event. When William distributed the estates of the Saxon thanes among some of his most notable followers, partly as private owners and partly as guardians of the new order, the largest portions of the county fell to Walter Giffard, to William's half-brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and to Geoffrey, Bishop of Constance.¹ But remarkable as was the change both in the superior landowners and in the system, it had little effect on the lower grades of rural in-

¹ Walter Giffard, 48 manors; Bishop of Bayeux, 26; the Bishop of Constance, 18; William Fitz-Ansculf, 16; Earl Morton, 13; Milo Crispin, 12, etc.

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habitants. The Saxon thane was replaced by the Norman baron or knight, not necessarily by one of the few chief landowners but more often by men who held from them, and who became the forefathers of the hereditary gentry, who were to be seen throughout the county up to the beginning of the last century. But the villein, the bordar and the serf remained in the same position, working, however, for a Norman in place of a Saxon master.

That in the 15th century the people of Buckinghamshire should be deeply influenced by the teaching of Wycliffe and of his assistants is not surprising. This county was at no great distance from the two centres from which Wycliffe and his preachers started on their journeys—Lutterworth, his own living, and Oxford, his own University. Ludgershall in Buckinghamshire, between Oxford and Aylesbury, was a living which he obtained and exchanged for Fillingham in 1368, but during the time that he held this preferment he seems to have been a non-residential rector, Oxford being his place of abode. Still the mere tenure of Ludgershall would be sufficient to give Wycliffe a peculiar interest in Buckinghamshire, and to strengthen his influence among its landowners and its peasantry after he had settled down in Leicestershire, and among the dismal stories which attach to the town of Amersham are those of the executions of numerous Lollards. In the age of the Stuarts the same tendency to individual freedom—whether religious or secular—is seen in the adherence of the majority of the men of Buckinghamshire, among whom Hampden is immortal, and of those in social cir-

COUNTY TITLES

cumstances beneath them, to the cause of the Parliament. Here and there was to be found a chivalrous adherent of Charles, as Sir Edmund Verney, whose charming character has been portrayed in the *Memorials of the Verney Family*, and in Sir Alexander Denton, who lost son and home by his preference for the Royalist cause.

Aylesbury during the Civil War was more than once the headquarters of Essex's army, opposed alike in position and religious feelings to Oxford, where the King's army was lying. Newport Pagnell, too, was strongly garrisoned by the Parliamentarians, and was of great strategic importance.

Half a century later Buckinghamshire produced enthusiastic adherents to the cause of George Fox, and from Aylesbury to Chalfont there was not a village in which were not to be found steadfast supporters of Quakerism willing to suffer severe pains and penalties for their cause. Of a later age, of the politics and letters of the 18th century, memories are recalled not only by the melancholy magnificence of Stowe, but by Beaconsfield, Bulstrode, Dropmore and Stoke Poges. But the associations which belong to these and other places in modern times, and which are largely literary, do not alter the main historical characteristics of Buckinghamshire.

Titles derived from the County.—Of those who have borne a title taken from the county itself the first in point of time are the Giffards. The aged Walter Giffard, the friend and the counsellor of William the Conqueror, the standard-bearer at Senlac, was not, as has been generally assumed, the

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first Earl of Buckingham. The point is by no means clear, but it would seem that this title was given to his son, another Walter. He was followed by his son, also Walter, who died in 1164, and was buried according to some accounts at Longueville in France, according to others in the abbey which he had founded at Notley.

In 1377 Thomas Plantagenet, youngest son of Edward III., was created Earl of Buckingham, and was succeeded by Humphrey, his son. Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, nephew of the preceding, was also called Earl of Buckingham, and two others of this line bore the title of Duke of Buckingham. Perhaps the two best known holders of the title were the two Villiers, the evil advisers of the Stuart monarchs. George Villiers was created Earl of Buckingham in 1617, marquis in 1618, and in 1623 he was created a duke. The title became extinct on the death of his son, the equally famous favourite of Charles II., in 1687.

In 1713 John Sheffield, third Earl of Mulgrave, the statesman and man of letters, was created Duke of Buckingham and Normanby, but the title in this family became extinct on the death of the second duke in 1735. In the 18th century the Temples, essentially a Buckinghamshire family, became more closely associated with the county by title. George Grenville, Earl Temple, twice Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, was created in 1784 Marquis of Buckingham. His son became a duke in 1822. It was his son who by his imprudence brought ruin on the family, and it was

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during his lifetime, in 1848, that the famous Stowe sale of books and works of art took place. At the death of his successor, the third duke, a leading Conservative politician in his day, in 1889, the title became extinct, and the palace at Stowe became a monument of magnificence that seems to have departed for ever.

The title of Earl of Buckinghamshire—only a slight change in the nomenclature—has been borne since 1746 by the Hobarts, a Norfolk family, when John Bacon Hobart was created Earl of Buckinghamshire. On the death of the third and last Viscount Hampden in 1824, the fifth Earl of Buckinghamshire succeeded to the historic Hampden estates. This seems to be the first connection of the Hobarts with Buckinghamshire.

The Arms of the County.—The swan, the arms of Buckinghamshire, was the family badge of Eleanor de Bohun. On her marriage with Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, youngest son of Edward III., it became that of her husband, who was created Earl of Buckingham in 1377. Their daughter Anne married into the Stafford family, and her son, Humphrey Stafford, was created Duke of Buckingham in 1444. Through these dukes of the Stafford family the swan became so associated with the shire as to be adopted for the county arms. The date of the actual appropriation is uncertain, but it must have been during the ascendancy of the Stafford family, when they held the Manor of Buckingham and other estates, between the 14th and 16th centuries.

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X. HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

(a) *Statesmen*.—Of men who, by work for the State, have achieved a place in history, and who have also passed so much of their life in the county as to give them a right to be enumerated among those who may properly be associated in history with Buckinghamshire, the first is unquestionably the old warrior of Arques and Senlac, the comrade and the adviser of the Conqueror, Walter Giffard, to whom fell no less than forty-eight of the manors of the county, a number of which, however, he distributed among his retainers.

In the age of Elizabeth we meet with two eminent men, Arthur Grey, fourteenth Lord Grey de Wilton, and Sir John Fortescue (1531-1607), whose country homes were not far apart at Whaddon and at Salden. Of Sir John Fortescue—the successful, learned and able civil servant, the valued and trusty adviser of Elizabeth, whose elaborate monument we may still see in Mursley church—something is said where this place is described. Grey was a different type of man, who, in 1582, was taken from a useful if obscure life at Whaddon to fill the difficult post of Lord Deputy of Ireland. He was unable to quell the Desmond rebellion, and at the end of two years Ireland was in a more unhappy state than when Grey first set foot in it. Thus he was as ready to quit the melancholy scene as Elizabeth and her advisers were anxious to supersede him, and from the day when he returned without reluctance

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from his government he lived the life of a country gentleman at Whaddon.

But he had had the good fortune to select Spenser (1553-1599) as his secretary during his Irish administration, and in his *Champion of True Justice Artegall* he had the best of all monuments, for in the fifth book of the *Faerie Queen* we may see the unsuccessful statesman transformed into the hero of romance.

In this age, so fruitful of able men, we ought not to overlook Elizabeth's personal champion—a life-long courtier, and, strange anomaly, a great farmer, whose sheep browsed in hundreds on the meadows of the vale of Aylesbury—Sir Henry Lee (1530-1610) of Quarrendon. Nor should we forget, in the 16th century, the unfortunate Everard Digby (1579-1606), who, born in Northamptonshire, became by marriage a Buckinghamshire landowner, and the owner of Gotehurst (Gayhurst). A Catholic, reckless and luckless, he lost his life by complicity in the contemptible scheme known to history as the Gunpowder Plot. Nor should we overlook his son, the learned and more fortunate Sir Kenelm.

Few more interesting characters are to be found than Sir Edmund Verney, the gallant standard-bearer of Charles I., who fell at Edgehill, and his son, the judicious and patriotic Sir Ralph, whose lives form so large a part in the well-known *Memoirs of the Verney Family*. With the Civil War Hampden comes on the scene. He was one of a line of Buckinghamshire squires. In every wise he was a Buckinghamshire man. Though born in London his boyhood was passed largely at his

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home among the Chilterns. He was educated first at Thame Grammar School, just outside the borders of the county, and then he was a student of Magdalen College, Oxford. But every journey that he took to and from Thame and Oxford he passed through the meadows of the Vale or Aylesbury, with which he was as well acquainted as with the woodlands of the Chilterns. After he married, in 1619, Hampden settled down at Great Hampden, representing the neighbouring little town of Wendover in the first three Parliaments of Charles I.; in the Short Parliament (April 1640), and in the Long Parliament he was one of the members for the county. At Great Kimble, on a January morning in 1635, he made his protest against ship money, and in respect of the 20s. tax on his estate in the parish of Stoke Mandeville, there ensued the famous litigation which raised the question of the validity of ship money. When the Civil War broke out Hampden raised and took command of a regiment of Buckinghamshire militia, and though he was wounded at Chalgrove Field in Oxfordshire and died at Thame, he was buried in the church at Great Hampden. A small monument commemorates John Hampden, and one may still read in dim characters the inscription on the plain tablet which he wrote in memory of his wife; while in the seclusion of the upland fields and of the beech woods which surround his home we are still constantly reminded of the patriot squire. After his death at their home among the Chiltern Hills his descendants lived for many generations.

To the age of the Rebellion and the Common-

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wealth belongs the judicious Bulstrode Whitelock, a Buckinghamshire man not only by reason of his possession of the Manor of Fawley and his representation of Great Marlow in Parliament, but because on his mother's side he was connected with the old county family of the Bulstrodes of Hedgerley Bulstrode.

Coming to a later time we meet with William Penn, who rather by his death than his life is identified with the county, for it was not until he was a young man that his connection with the Society of Friends brought him to the Chalfonts. Here he courted Gulielma Springett, the stepdaughter of Isaac Pennington. He was, however, married (1672) at Chorleywood on the borders of Herts, and lived for a time at Rickmansworth (Herts), but he is buried with his wife in the burial ground of the Friends at Jordans, three miles from the village which bears his name. No direct evidence connects him with the Penns of Penn, but he believed that he was descended from them, for the inscription which he wrote on his father's monument in the church of St Mary Redcliffe at Bristol states that he was one of them.

In no long time after Penn there appears the Dutchman, William Bentinck, Earl of Portland, the friend and minister of William III., who made for himself an English home at Bulstrode.

Among the statesmen who in the 18th century are closely associated with the county the most famous is Burke (1730-1797). He had no ancestral connection with Buckinghamshire and became possessed of the estate of Gregories, close to Beaconsfield, after his second election for Wendover in 1768. But through his home he is now inseparably associated with the county. For more than a quarter of a century (1768-1797) he obtained from the rural quiet, the country occupations, into which he entered with singular zest,

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unbounded satisfaction and enjoyment, by the side of which it would seem any pecuniary embarrassments arising from his landed property appeared trivial. From a monetary point of view there can be no doubt that the purchase of Gregories by Burke was a mistake. It involved him in financial difficulties at the commencement of his ownership, and it continued to be a constant burden. The history of the transaction is now clear, and there is in it nothing that was discreditable to Burke. The cost of the estate was £22,000, and of this sum £14,000 was left on mortgage and was not paid off at his death. The remainder was paid in cash, £2000 being Burke's own money and £6000 an advance from the Marquis of Rockingham, a loan which he cancelled on his death-bed. It is evident, too, that the cost of keeping up Burke's Buckinghamshire property was largely defrayed by loans from the same nobleman, for when Lord Rockingham died there was no less a sum due to him from his friend than £30,000, the notes of hand for which were, by Lord Rockingham's directions, destroyed. Without the aid, therefore, of the statesman who was the leader of the group which was known as the Rockingham Whigs, it now seems certain that Burke would never have been able to purchase or to live at the place with which his name is so inseparably connected. But if the purchase of Gregories was, from the point of view of monetary prudence, wrong, it had unusual recompenses. Burke's temperament was one which enabled him to forget trouble and disregard details which would have harassed a

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careful mind. He delighted in the pleasures of his country life. From the time of its purchase till Burke's death, Gregories was the memorable resort of statesmen, politicians, and men of letters. At Gregories, Johnson and the Thrales stayed at the end of September 1774, when returning from their Welsh tour, a visit which was only concluded, says Mrs Piozzi, "when the general election broke up the delightful society in which we had spent some time at Beaconsfield."

We must note also a group of modern statesmen who are quite inseparable from the county—the third Duke of Portland, his neighbour Lord Grenville and Lord Beaconsfield. The Duke of Portland was not a man either by talent or character specially interesting to posterity, though he had more ability than some of his contemporaries admitted. It was rather to good temper and judicious common sense, added to high rank, that he owed his position as head of the Coalition Ministry of 1783, and though in his life there was a constant connection between Bulstrode and Westminster, the Duke passing much of his time on his Buckinghamshire estate, we associate the place rather with the last years of his more famous predecessor, the first Earl, than with his long political life. On the other hand, Lord Grenville, who purchased Dropmore in 1792, is not only a considerable historical figure but impressed his individuality on the place. Grenville, who had been a member for Bucks from 1784 till he was created a peer in 1790, and from the following year throughout a life of much

political activity he never for a moment relinquished his Dropmore sympathies. When he purchased the property it was a piece of waste land, it is to-day one of the places in England best clothed with coniferous trees and flowering shrubs. His restless and ambitious brother, the Marquis of Buckingham, would break off in the middle of a political letter to tell him how he was forwarding him many thousands of young trees ; and towards the end of his life Grenville wrote interesting letters to Lord Grey on his plantations. Pitt and most politicians of importance in Grenville's time were visitors at Dropmore, which must continue to recall the memory of a statesman whose propinquity to his great cousin has somewhat dwarfed him in history.

The elder Disraeli was an old man when, in 1829, after a life of literary labour and social intercourse at Bloomsbury, he went to live in the charming seclusion of the Manor House at Bradenham, which was his home till his death in 1848. But it is as the beginning of Benjamin Disraeli's connection with Buckinghamshire that Bradenham with its picturesque surroundings is so interesting.

Lord Beaconsfield was throughout his life intimately associated with the county. Here began his earliest struggles in his long political career ; in 1832 he stood twice unsuccessfully for the borough of High Wycombe. In 1837 he succeeded in entering Parliament as one of the members for Maidstone. But when his parliamentary position was assured he again turned his eyes to his home county, and, in 1847, two years before he succeeded Lord

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George Bentinck as the leader of the country party, was elected one of the members for Buckinghamshire. The constituency, essentially agricultural and old-fashioned, Disraeli—the last man in the world one would have supposed to be acceptable to this electorate—represented for eight and twenty years till his accession to the peerage in 1875, and during that time many of his most striking speeches were addressed to Buckinghamshire audiences at Aylesbury and Slough.

It was in the quiet churchyard of Hughenden that by his own desire Disraeli was buried and not in Westminster Abbey, where, however much opinions may differ of a statesman whose teaching certainly appears at present to be a stronger influence on his countrymen than that of any of his contemporaries, he was entitled to a monument and a tomb. Disraeli had known Hughenden since his youth; negotiations for its purchase lasted for a long time, but in 1848, after the death of his father, he became the owner of this now famous estate. Disraeli had none of what are called the country gentleman's tastes, but he had that fine sense which finds an enjoyment partly sensuous and partly intellectual in the aspect of the country, in its colour and its stillness, in its variety, and its spaciousness, in its old buildings and its historic associations. All these characteristics were to be found within a few miles of Disraeli's home. From Burke to Hampden, from Hampden to Wycliffe and from Wycliffe to the Norman Barons, the county evidenced the formation of the English people, while in the

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secluded valleys and among the immense beech-woods and on the steep escarpments of the Chilterns one met with a delightful series of landscapes. Thus, from 1839 until his death, Buckinghamshire occupied the same kind of place in Disraeli's life as it did in that of Burke, and Hughenden was to him the same restful country home that Gregories was to the statesman to whom he is so remarkable a contrast.

(*b*) *Men of Letters*.—When we turn to those whose association with the county entitles them to be regarded as belonging to it in the eyes of posterity, and who have achieved a permanent place in the history of English literature, we think at once of Ellwood, whose ingenuous memorial — *The History of Thomas Ellwood*—is one of the most delightful personal stories in the language. His more formal and polemical compositions have long ceased to be of value, but his autobiography remains a charming and simple delineation of a fine character, and a description of phases of political, social and religious life in the 17th century, no less valuable than the diaries of Pepys and Evelyn and the letters of Horace Walpole.

Looking back to an earlier age we may please ourselves with the thought that Hooker (1553 ?-1600), as he tended his sheep in the bleak pastures between Drayton Beauchamp and the Chiltern Hills, was already contemplating his famous work on Ecclesiastical Polity. Burke, who for so long found a home in Buckinghamshire, may be ranked among statesmen and men of letters, and of him we have already spoken. But the main import-

MEN OF LETTERS

ance of Buckinghamshire from the point of view of the place it should hold in the history of English literature, is its association with an illustrious group of poets differing widely, but each representative of his age and his art. The first and greatest of these is Milton. He came to Horton when he left Cambridge in 1632, and here he stayed for the next five years, a period during which *Lycidas*, *Il Penseroso*, *L'Allegro* and *Comus* were written. The house in which Milton then lived no longer exists, and it is the general locality rather than the place itself which one regards. But after we have seen Horton, with its low-lying flowery meadows, its streams and rivulets, we perceive how parts of *L'Allegro* and *Lycidas* were suggested to Milton. Here are still—

“The tufted crow-toe and pale jessamine
The white pinks and pansy freaked with jet
The glowing violet,
The musk-rose and the well-attired woodbine
With cowslips wan that hang the pensive head.”

Here, too, in summer-time we see—

“Meadows trim and daisies pied
Shallow brooks and rivers wide.”

In 1665 at Chalfont St Giles he completed *Paradise Lost*. Milton is succeeded by Waller (1606-1687), whose home was at Hall Barns close to Beaconsfield, and he is followed by Gray (1716-1771), with whose personality and name Stoke Poges and Burnham are inseparably united. Away in the north, among the meadows and

poplars of Olney, we presently meet with Cowper (1731-1800), whose genius was so suited to his surroundings, and, lastly, at Marlow, amidst the charming scenery of the Thames, we gain a glimpse of a quiet space in Shelley's tumultuous career, the days of his summer task of 1817. Of these poets Gray and Cowper are undoubtedly the most local, not in a narrow or popular sense, but because their delicate and sensitive natures were inevitably influenced by their surroundings, by the character of the locality and by the people among whom they lived. Gray would never have written his *Elegy* if he had not felt the associations of Stoke church, of its grey tower, its ancient elms, and its pensive beauty, while the reflections of many musing walks along the hill-sides which overlook the valley of the Thames and on the commons of Stoke and Farnham are collected in the *Ode on the Distant Prospect of Eton College*, for ever uniting Eton and the woodland lanes of Buckinghamshire with Gray.

There was not a natural feature around Olney, not a person whom he met day after day, who did not insensibly influence the mind of Cowper. He was inspired by, and in his poetry pictures, with astonishing fidelity, the scenery and the life of Olney and of Weston Underwood, yet the considerable volume of his verse, the applicability of his descriptions to many parts of England—for the scenery of the valley of the Ouse is somewhat that of all meadow valleys—has made him appear less local than Gray.

MEN OF LETTERS

Milton, with his broad genius, would have written *Lycidas* whether he were in a country hamlet or a busy town.

Waller lived a great deal at Beaconsfield during many years, but the charming poem which begins—

“Go, lovely Rose,
Tell her that wastes her time and me,
That now she knows,
When I resemble her to thee,
How sweet and fair she seems to be.”

might just as well have been thought of at St Germain's as among the Buckinghamshire uplands. Not a single line of Waller's poetry shows the slightest sign of resulting from lifelong surroundings. In Shelley's *Revolt of Islam* there is little to remind us of the places where it was written—the tranquil reaches of the Thames and the pleasant shades of the Quarry woods—except from time to time some suggestion of summer life on the river, as when the sunbeams chase the shadows over the meadows and the poplars flutter in the secluded backwaters. Gray and Cowper alone must be accounted, each in his separate manner, the two poets of Buckinghamshire, and with them it may well be content.

In the Victorian Age Buckinghamshire is closely associated with the life and work of Grote (1794-1871). He began to live—for part of the year—at East Burnham in 1838, and it was here that his *History of Greece* was largely written. His house was near Farnham

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Royal, and he appropriately called it History Hut. But in 1851 he built, out of the proceeds of his history, a small house. Here he lived till 1857, when it was sold and enlarged; it is now called East Burnham Park.

DESCRIPTION OF PLACES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

The following abbreviations are used in speaking of architectural styles, in regard to which the divisions in Parker's *Introduction to Gothic Architecture* have been followed :—

N = Norman—including the early and late periods A.D. 1050-1175. E.E. = Early English, the first 25 years of which include the change of style from the Norman, A.D. 1175-1272. D = Decorated, A.D. 1272-1377. P = Perpendicular, A.D. 1377-1547. The sign (o) after a church shows that it is habitually kept open.

Addington (Domesday, Edintone)—Winslow and Verney Junction, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.; footpath from Verney Junction, $\frac{3}{4}$ m.—Practically consists of the church, the Manor House and a few cottages. The chief manor, which at one time passed through such well-known Buckinghamshire families as the Romenels and the Molyms, in 1635 came into the possession of the Busbys, in whose family it remained till 1812. Addington Manor is now the property of Lord Addington. The first baron of that title was so created in 1887. The old Manor House long ago disappeared, and the present house was built in 1857 from a design by the well-known architect, Hardwick.

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The church (o), partly rebuilt 1858—has chancel, nave, 2 aisles, S. porch, and a western tower, but there is little of the original building now left. The situation, almost in the grounds of Addington Manor, is delightful. Note the old stocks inside the private grounds of the Manor close to the church. A copy of the Primer of 1541 found in the church is now kept at the rectory adjoining the church.

Adstock (Padbury Station, 2 m.).—This is rather an attractive village to the N. of the road from Winslow to Padbury. There are some picturesque thatched cottages not far from the church, which is a charming little building, with W. tower, nave and chancel. The S. doorway has good 12th-century work, and is of simple but effective design. Note work of same period on N. doorway, also the 15th-century tower arch. The modern corbel heads, on which the inner portion of the chancel arch rests, are well executed, the S. have oak leaves and acorns, the N. vine leaves and grapes. The P. windows of the nave are striking, but the tracery rather clumsy. Note also (1) the P. font, which is octagonal with a rose on each panel—the base is heavy; (2) the open panels of the pulpit, into which have been inserted the remains of the ancient rood screen; (3) the date 1597 cut into cross beam above the E. window.

On the S. porch is a sundial, with the date 1581.

Akeley (Buckingham, 2½ m.)—(Domesday, Achelai)—is a fair-sized village pleasantly situated almost on the top of a hill, with good views to N.E.

ADSTOCK—AMERSHAM

with the church in the centre. This is quite a large building, with chancel, nave, tower and S. porch. It was rebuilt in 1854.

Amersham (Met. and G.C. Railway), Agmondesham as it was called—Leyland (1533) wrote of it as Hagmondesham *alias* Homersham—is a typical small rural borough, of which there are several on the southern slopes of the Chiltern Hills. From 1624 to the Reform Act of 1832 this little town regularly returned two members to Parliament, among whom may be noted Edmund Waller, 1627-40-41, and Algernon Sidney, 1656. It was from the beginning of the 18th century wholly in the pockets of the Drake family, and in 1705 there were only some 130 voters. Time has not changed Amersham. There is still one long street through which a broad highway passes, bordered by sober red brick houses of the 17th and 18th centuries, and quaint-gabled buildings of an earlier age. At the S. or London end is the Market Hall, built by Sir William Drake in 1682, on which are his arms. The Grammar School endowed in 1624 by Dr Chalmers, Canon of Windsor, was on E. side of main street: a new building has been erected outside the town. The almshouses built in 1657 are interesting. On the W. side of the main street, at the Aylesbury end, you enter through a low archway opposite some pollarded trees into a small quadrangle round which the low buildings are grouped, the six doors for the six poor widows—a little harbour of refuge, very sug-

gestive both socially and architecturally. Amer-sham was in fact at once a rural and urban community among the pleasant meadows in the Misbourne valley with beech woods extending all over the adjoining hills.

The church of St Mary, a large flint building, with nave, aisles, small transepts, chancels, and large monumental room of the Drake family entered through N. door in chancel, is without architectural interest. There are a number of monuments, including three reliefs by R. A. Bacon, marked by grace and feeling, to W. Drake died 1796, to T. T. Drake died 1810, and to the Rev. C. T. Drake died 1816. They are in vivid contrast to the Jacobean and Georgian monuments, which are without any beauty but are vigorous and realistic. Note in chancel the Curwen monument 1636, on N. wall, and the brass effigies of Henry Brudenell and Alianora, his wife, 1430; on the S. wall the Bent monument, 1736, and the striking little brass to John Drake, 1623. Beneath this effigy and inscription are these quaint lines :—

“ Had hee liv'd to be a man
This inch had grown but to a span,
Now is hee past all feare of paine
'Twere sinn to wish him heere againe.
Vewe but the way by w^{ch} wee come
Thow'l say hee's best that's first at home.”

On the north wall of N. aisle are monumental brasses to John de la Penne, 1537, and Elizabeth, his wife, 1521, also to Thomas Carbonel and Elizabeth, his wife, 1438 and 1439, and on the



AMERSHAM

ASCOTT—ASTON ABBOTS

W. wall of same aisle the brass effigy of a civilian (head lost), 1450.

The Drakes, who are so often commemorated in the church, still own the property and house of Shardoloes, which is strikingly placed on the hillside, a little to the N.W. of Amersham. Joan, the eldest daughter and heiress of W. Tothill of Shardoloes (eldest by the way of thirty-three children), married, about 1605, Frances Drake of Esher. This was the beginning of the Buckinghamshire family of the Drakes.

Ascott (see Wing).

Ashendon (Watton G.W. and G.C.R., 1¼ m.) is on one of the highest points which rise out of the Vale of Aylesbury. The church is at the summit, the roofs of the thatched cottages are clustered round and below it to the S.; on every side is a wide prospect of rich and pleasant country-land. The church has been untouched by the restorer, old pews remain which, however ugly, remind us of the 18th century. It has a chancel, nave, S. aisle and low W. tower. Note a blocked 12th-century doorway, and a single light E.E. window, also some Dec. windows, and on N. wall of the chancel, the effigy, in Purbeck marble, of a knight in chain armour under a Dec. canopy.

Ashley Green is an ecclesiastical parish, about 3 m. N.E. of Chesham, with a modern church. It was formed in 1869. Grove Farm, about a mile to the S.E. of this church, has a barn which was originally a mediæval domestic building defended by a wall and double moat.

Aston Abbots (Aylesbury, 5½ m.)—Domesday, Estones, the second name being added from its having been the property of the Abbey of St

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Albans for several hundred years, is a small village half a mile to the W. of the Aylesbury and Leighton Road. The church (o) was restored in 1865-66. The tower, late 15th century, is noticeable, having a large square turret at S.E. angle.

Aston Clinton (Aylesbury, $3\frac{1}{4}$ m., Wendover, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is an important village. S.W. of it is Aston Clinton House, one of the numerous possessions of the Rothschild family in this district, on the site of the old Manor House. The church is a large building in a spacious churchyard, which is attractive from its sheltering fringe of fine elms. The lofty Dec. chancel is the best feature in the church, which has also two aisles and W. tower. The Dec. sedilia are remarkably ornate, as is the piscina in N. wall, with two figures at each of the upper corners. The pillars between nave and aisles are alternately rounded and octagonal, but this part of the building is spoilt by the number and want of harmony in the windows of the S. aisle.

Aston Sandford (Haddenham G.C. and G.W.R., 1 m.) is a small out-of-the-way village in the meadows of the Thame valley to the S. of Haddenham. It has only a small church (with a chancel, nave and bell turret) which seems to have been rebuilt in the 13th century. The place obtained its second name from the family of Sandford, who possessed the Manor at the end of the 12th century.

Astwood (Newport Pagnell, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is the

ASTON CLINTON—AYLESBURY

most easterly village of the county. It lies in a mixed agricultural district, and is without interest. The restored church (o) has chancel, nave, S. aisle and W. tower. The details are mixed in character, of various periods and not noteworthy. The font is E. E. with a plain bowl supported on four circular shafts. Note brasses in S. aisle, E. end, Thomas Chivnale and his first and second wife, 1534.

Aylesbury (A.S. *Æglesburg*), (G. W. Railway, L. & N. W. and Met. Railway), is an ancient town, and was one of the strongest British fortresses which fell to the Saxons in 571. At a later date it became famous through its connection with three holy women, St Editha and St Edburg, daughters of a Mercian prince, and their niece St Osith. At the time of the Domesday survey the manor of Alesberie belonged to the Crown, but, in 1204, King John granted it to Fitz Piers, Earl of Essex—later it went to the Botelers, and by female descent came to Thomas Bullen, father of Anne Boleyn, who sold it to Sir John Baldwin, Knt., whose son-in-law, Robert Packington, came into possession in 1545, and his descendants continued to hold it till 1802. The Packingtons sold the manor to the Marquis of Buckingham, who held it till 1848. During the civil wars the town became a parliamentary stronghold, and was for a time the headquarters of Essex, and more than one vain attempt was made by the Royalists to seize it.

The town stands on a slight eminence in the rich vale which bears the same name, and spreads itself out from an old market square, the S. side of which is formed by the County Hall and New

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Corn Exchange. One or two old houses may be seen here or there, such as those facing the church to the S.

The church of St Mary (o) is built partly on the site of an ancient, probably Saxon, church. It is a fine cruciform structure of the 15th century, and was completely restored in 1850 by Sir Gilbert Scott. On the whole it must be regarded chiefly as E.E. in character. Note on the exterior the fine west E.E. doorway, in the S. porch the E.E. arcades, and the P. doorway to S. transept. The interior, which has all the spacious but rather cold character of E.E. architecture, is full of architectural interest, and presents a different appearance to what it must have borne before its restoration, for during the Commonwealth arches were blocked up and other acts of disfigurement perpetrated. The chancel (with modern triplet window) is E.E. with a few later additions, as are also the arches, with water rims to bases and dog-tooth ornament on E. side of S. transept, the beautiful triforium of central tower, the arch, niche and piscina on E. wall of N. transept (at present used as a vestry), the arcading in nave and one window in S. aisle. In the chapel of N. aisle are two 13th-century stone coffins in a double Dec. niche and a piscina on E. wall. A beautiful font (N.) stands in the south aisle. The north vestry (15th century) is entered from the N. transept, and on one of the original doors is still to be seen a remarkable lock turned by a winch key; above this is a small room with a curious old fireplace.

The monument to Lady Lee, wife of Sir Henry Lee, 1584, in the N. transept is a fine

AYLESBURY—BARTON HARTSHORN

example of Elizabethan sculpture. Lady Lee is depicted kneeling, behind her is a girl in the same attitude, two infants in swaddling clothes lie near, the inscription describing her virtues and life shows how general had become the heroic and archaic verse which we generally associate with the *Faerie Queen*. This monument was brought from the disused church at Quarendon; near it, in a recess, is an alabaster effigy of a knight in a coat of mail, removed from the site of the Grey Friars' Monastery.

The Prebendal House stands to the W. of the churchyard. It was for some time the property of John Wilkes (1727-1797) through his marriage with Mary Mead, whose father, a wealthy tradesman of London, was its owner. The marriage was an unhappy one for Mrs Wilkes, but through it Wilkes was elected member for the borough in 1757. Lord Chancellor Westbury, then Mr Bethell, was at one time M.P. for Aylesbury, as was John Lyly in 1593 and 1601.

The King's Head Hotel contains a fine 15th-century room. The County Museum in Church Street is worth a visit.

The hamlet of Walton is now a suburb of the town S. of the market-place, and has a small modern church.

Near Aylesbury, the first Point to Point Steeplechase in England was run in 1835, from Waddesdon Windmill to a field just below Aylesbury church. For a description see Fowler's *Echoes of Old Country Life*.

Barton Hartshorn (Finnere Station, 1½ m.) is a mere hamlet on the borders of the county close to Oxfordshire among low-lying pastures.

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The church is small and unimportant; most parts are modern.

Beachampton (Wolverton, London and North-Western Railway, 4 m.)—Domesday, Bechenstone—lies close to the Ouse on the N.W. border of the county. The village is small, as is the church, a good deal restored.

The monument to Sir Simon Benett—the bust of a man in a wig and lace cravat—who died in 1631, was oddly enough not erected until 128 years after his death. The glass in the E. window is a memorial of Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford (d. 1873).

A brass in N. aisle commemorates William Bawdyn (blacksmith), 1600, and one in S. aisle, Ales Baldwyn, 1611.

Beachampton Hall, now the Hall Farm, stands close to the Ouse, but much of it was pulled down in the 18th century. Among other details an oak-panelled banqueting hall, which is reached by a fine carved oak staircase, still remains, and in the windows is some old stained glass.

Beaconsfield (G.W. and G.C.R. Station, 1 m.).—This large village is striking from the spaciousness of its streets, especially the main street, which is formed by the London and Oxford high road. Its situation on the top of a high tableland adds to its breezy character. Beaconsfield represents an 18th-century village. At the S. entrance, on the London road, are the gates of Wilton Park, which extends for $\frac{3}{4}$ m. along the side of the road.

The church (o), in the centre of the village, is a large, flint-covered, uninteresting building, which



THE OLD RECTORY, BEACONSFIELD, EARLY SIXTEENTH CENTURY

BEACHAMPTON—BEACONSFIELD

was completely restored in 1869. Internally it has no details worthy of notice, though the chancel arch indicates an E.E. origin. On the S. wall is a simple oval marble tablet in memory of Burke, his wife and his much-loved son Richard; his grave in the centre of the nave is marked by a brass plate. The simplicity and historic value of this mural monument has been somewhat disturbed by an incongruous memorial erected in 1898. Also in the centre of the nave is a fine brass containing the figures of John Warren of Whites Farm, his wife and children (1609), an interesting example of 17th-century brass work. An incised stone, with the figures of a man and a woman, a monument to Thomas Waller and his wife Dorothy (1626), is at the E. end of the N. aisle.

Against the N. wall stands a 17th-century chest, the panels of which contain paintings, and in the N. wall of the chancel is a recessed altar tomb—15th century.

On the N. wall is a tablet in memory of Robert Lee, Gentleman, 1572, with some quaint and pleasing lines, of which the beginning runs—

“ Let nothing cause the harte to qualle,
 Launche out the Boote, haule upp the saille
 Put from the earthly shoore
 And at the length thou shalt obtaine
Unto the Port that shall remaine ffor evermore.”

The tomb of Edmund Waller (1605-1687)—*see* Introduction, p. 55—is conspicuous in the churchyard under a walnut tree. It is singularly ugly, and the exaggerated eulogies which are engraved on it are in marked contrast to the unadorned marble which was sufficient for Burke. Waller's house, Hall Barn, stands to the S.W. of the village, but is scarcely visible from the road; the present house (1712) stands on the site of that built by the poet.

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On the S.W. side of the church is the Rectory House (not the Rectory), which was restored in 1901. It was begun in or about 1500, and was completed in 1543. The house served for a time as a sub-priory to the Augustinian Abbey, established in 1266 at Burnham. It is an excellent example of the architecture of its time, and has three sides forming a quadrangle. The basement storey is constructed entirely of brick, glazed with chequered patterns; the upper storey, of which lofty gables and dormers break the roofs, is built of large timbers closely spaced and plastered between. To the N. side is attached the principal staircase, within a semi-cylindrical turret of timber—a curious and picturesque feature of the design. The amount of timber used in the building is surprising; the floors were formed of enormous planks, and the step to the floors and of the stair of massive blocks roughly shaped with the axe. Darkened passages are framed with solid tree-trunks, which were also used for partitions, where the builder of our day would consider thin boarding to be sufficient.

The site of Butler's Court or Gregories, once Burke's home, can no longer be visited, for it has now been built over. Gregories stood about a quarter of a mile from the road between Beaconsfield and the railway station, on the left going from Beaconsfield. The house was burnt down in 1813. As to Burke and Beaconsfield, *see* Introduction, p. 49.

Biddlesden (Brackley, Oxfordshire, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Buckingham, 6 m.) is on the Northamptonshire

border in the N.W. of the county. It was at one time a place of importance, for here was a Cistercian Priory founded in 1147 by Ernald de Basco. Remains of the Priory existed in 1712, but it was demolished about fifteen years later, and the house of Biddlesden Park stands on its site. The Gothic church, too, has now also disappeared, and a building in Biddlesden Park—built in the 18th century and once used as a private chapel—serves as a parish church.

Bierton (Aylesbury, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a straggling village nearly half a mile long on either side of the main road from Aylesbury to Leighton Buzzard. Among modern brick cottages are still to be found some picturesque old buildings. Note especially a cottage near the church, standing back from the road, with a garden in front. The house next to the church has some picturesque old gables on the S. side. The church of 14th century is cruciform—having nave, chancel, transepts and central tower. The windows are mostly poor P., but there are some fair two-light Dec. windows in either aisle. Internally, however, the size and height of the building is striking, the central tower being supported by four lofty columns faced by three half-rounded pillars. The details most to be noted are the two Dec. doorways in the S. transept, with elaborate cusps and finials, and the font, an excellent example of plain N. work. There are also two well-preserved niches on S. side of church, one having small columns. On the S. wall of chancel is a small but effective Jacobean monu-

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ment to Samuel Bosse (1626), depicting two figures, a man and his wife kneeling at a desk, and below them six children in cots; seven others are behind them.

Bledlow (village, 1 mile Bledlow Station) is the most western of the villages which stand on the northern spurs of the Chilterns, and one of the most attractive. It is charmingly placed just above the low-lying meadows which stretch across the Thame Valley to Haddenham. A large, straggling village shaded by elms; behind it rises Wain Hill, some of it all woodland, the rest bare down.

At the Domesday survey Bledelau (name thought to be Anglo-Saxon, meaning Bloody Field or Hill) Manor was possessed by Robert, Earl of Morton, and in the reign of Henry VI. was granted to Eton College. The church (o), with nave, chancel, two aisles, and W. tower, is a most interesting building. The E. window is E.E., and there are other indications, such as the piscina, that show that the chancel was built during the time that this style prevailed. In the body of the church are Dec. windows, one of four lights in S. wall is especially noticeable. The pillars of the nave are interesting—round, with good but rather roughly carved foliage. The tower seems to be of same age as chancel. Note a N. font, with the cable ornament; above this the bowl is large, fluted, and at the head are bold ornaments of leaves in mouldings. There are two large niches in S. aisle. The screen is modern. On the N. side of chancel is a fine

BLEMLOW—BOARSTALL

brass to William Hern, B.A., rector, 1525. He is in full Eucharistic vestments. There are interesting remains of mural paintings, that of St. Christopher in N. aisle is the best.

Bledlow Cross is cut on the hillside about 1 m. from the village. It measures about 75 ft. transversely. For the other example of a turf cutting in Bucks, see *Whiteleaf Cross*.

Bletchley is a country village and a junction on the L. & N.W. Railway, the village being $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the station, and the church $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to E. of village.—Between the church and station lies Bletchley Park. The church stands on high ground, and is of some size, with nave, two aisles—N. aisle extending the whole length of the church—chancel and W. tower, P., with pinnacles and turret. The S. doorway has good Norman work, and there are several Dec. details. In the De Wilton Chapel, N.E., is an alabaster monument—a recumbent effigy—to Richard Lord Grey de Wilton (died 1442), and on the N. wall of chancel notice the remarkable engraved portrait on copper, with curious surroundings—a skeleton shovelling earth to a grave, etc.—of Thos. Sparke, D.D., 1616.

Bletchley Manor was owned by Walter Giffard in the reign of William II. and by the De Greys of Wilton, descendants of Roesia, sister of Walter Giffard, second Earl of Buckinghamshire, till the year 1603.

Boarstall (Thame, 7 m.; Oxford, 12 m.) lies in the hilly and wooded district on the border of Oxfordshire. Boarstall is a pleasant excursion from Brill ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E.). The picturesque and massive gateway with embattled turrets, is now the only remains of Boarstall House. Boarstall

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or Borrestalle in ancient times lay within the important Forest of Bernwood, which began near Brill and extended into Oxfordshire. According to a legend, picturesque enough in itself but quite without foundation, the name is derived from a feat of forestry by one Nigel, who slew a famous boar and presented the head to Edward the Confessor. The name, however, clearly comes from some local circumstance ; possibly the original word was Burghstalle. The mansion of Boarstall seems to have been built in 1312, when Sir John de Handlo received the royal permission to fortify and embattle his house—"Muro de petra et calce firmare et kemellare." An old print depicts the place in 1695 surrounded on three sides by a moat—the existing gateway in front—behind it the house, with formal gardens and alleys on either side, and in the rear of all the meadows, with horses and cattle. The present paved approach across the moat was made in 1735, but the great gateway enables us to picture for ourselves Boarstall in days gone by. Boarstall, being intermediate between Oxford and Aylesbury, was of some importance during the Civil War. Garrisoned by the Royalist forces in the first instance, it was evacuated by them in 1644. It was subsequently retaken by the Royalists under Colonel Gage, and from that time until it surrendered to Fairfax, on the 10th of June 1646, it was constantly besieged. The remains of Boarstall House, at the E. end of the village, still testify to its strength, and are the most suggestive relics of the great Civil War which are left in Buckinghamshire. The church,



BRADENHAM CHURCH—SOUTH DOORWAY

BOARSTALL—BRADENHAM

entirely rebuilt in 1818 by Sir John Aubrey, is without interest.

Bourne End (see Wooburn).

Boveney is a hamlet in the parish of Burnham, and has a small church of 12th-century origin with details of later date, standing among elms near the Thames. It has a chancel and nave and a bell turret. Note the coloured fragments of alabaster figures preserved under glass.

Bradenham (West Wycombe, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a unique little village, secluded, charming and interesting by associations. It is on the N.E. side of the valley, a short distance from the main road which runs from High Wycombe to Prince's Risborough, from which a lane leads to an oval green. On the N. side old and picturesque cottages give it a pleasant homely air. At the top, separated only by the garden wall, are the church (key at Rectory) and Manor House; behind are beeches and firs on the hillside, beyond which extend the turf and heather and fir trees of Naphill Common. The short tower of the church is shaded by large fir trees. At the edge of the green are stately stone pillars and old iron work, whence a straight walk leads up to the Manor House. The church is quite a small building, with nave, chancel, W. tower and S. porch. The S. doorway is a fine specimen of early N. work. The outer arch rests on half-round engaged shafts with rudely sculptured capitals. There is a massive lintel resting on a smaller one, carved with the cable ornaments, supported by two small brackets receding to the jambs. There are two noteworthy monuments, one to the Hon. Charles West (1684) and

the other to Isaac Disraeli (*see* Introduction, p. 52). Note also the brass to Richard Redeberd, rector, 1521. Bradenham is intimately associated with the Disraelis—with the last years of Isaac Disraeli and the youth of Benjamin Disraeli. The Manor House was tenanted by Isaac Disraeli from 1829 until his death in 1848, and it was on the pleasant commons and among the beechwoods of the adjoining hills that in Benjamin Disraeli grew up the love of the county of Buckinghamshire and of the Chiltern Hills, which he retained throughout his life. Those who have *Endymion* on their shelves can perceive how deeply Bradenham was fixed in Lord Beaconsfield's memory, for under the name of Hurstley he describes in the beginning of the eleventh chapter the home of his boyhood, while here and there in succeeding pages one can note a sketch of some feature of the surrounding landscape. The manor of Bradenham appears to have been the only manor in Bucks which after the Conquest remained in the possession of its Saxon owner, and Swartling, as his name was, must have built the original N. church, the remarkable doorway of which has just been described.

Bradwell is a parish S. of Wolverton, divided by the Ouse. The church (Wolverton Station, 2 m.) was originally E.E., having been founded some time in the 13th century. It has fairly good Dec. windows. The upper part of tower has been taken down. Note nail-head ornament on E. window.

New Bradwell, with a modern church, is a new ecclesiastical district N.E. of Bradwell, and

BRADWELL—BRICKHILLS

chiefly inhabited by the men of the London and North-Western Railway.

To the S. of Bradwell Church once stood the small Benedictine Priory of St Mary, founded about 1155 by Manfelin, Baron of Wolverton.

There are considerable remains of the chapel, which forms part of a farm building—a three-light W. window and a S. door with ball-flower ornament, which is blocked up, and a few other details.

Brickhills, The.—These are three villages on the Bedfordshire border. In Domesday the name is Brichelle, of this the modern name is merely a corruption. A family named Boel had lands at the Brickhills in the reign of John, and the word Bow is obviously the same as that of this family, for, as often happened, an additional name became attached to a village from its connection with a particular family, *e.g.*, *Weston Turville*.

Bow Brickhill, the most northerly of the three villages (Fenny Stratford, 2 m., Woburn Sands Station, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.), is a long village picturesquely winding up the slope of a high hill. At the top is the church, strikingly placed (530 feet), with a fine view to the W., and behind pine woods and heath; it is chiefly late P. work. It contains a P. font and an oak pulpit, P., brought from Buckingham. The road behind the church, on the high ground which leads to Little Brickhill, is all sand, and useless for bicycles.

Great Brickhill (Fenny Stratford, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.).—This is the largest of the three villages (to the N. is the Manor House—modern). The church (o), in a picturesque churchyard, has a central tower,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

chancel of the 13th century. The arches of the nave are all pointed. During the Civil War, in 1643, Essex and the Parliamentary army were stationed here.

Little Brickhill (Fenny Stratford, London and N.W. Railway, 2 m.) comes next to Bow Brickhill. It is attractively situated, but has no particular object of interest. The church is of various dates and contains a small circular 13th-century font. There are Roman remains along the Watling Street road towards Fenny Stratford.

Brill (G.W.R., 2 m., also station on Branch Met. Railway, 1 m.)—a village in a remarkable position, covering the flat summit of a high hill (694 feet). Around, the counties of Buckingham and Oxford are outstretched, and to the S. the Chiltern Hills are outlined to the view. This natural formation explains the importance of Brill in the past, while it has made it to-day a modest health resort.

No traces of the Royal Palace which once stood here can now be seen: it was the occasional residence of Edward the Confessor and the Norman kings. Situated as it was in Bernwood Forest it appears to have been one of their favourite hunting boxes. At the Domesday survey Brill (Brunhelle), including Boarstall, Kingsey and Radnage is described as the King's Manor. From 1337 to 1553 the Manor was in the possession of Sir John de Molyns and his descendants, the Hungerfords and Hastings. At the commencement of the Civil War Charles I. placed troops at Brill to protect Oxford from the Parliamentary forces of Buckinghamshire; it was evacuated after the fall of Reading. It has entirely lost all its glory, and is a large, dull village

LITTLE BRICKHILL—BUCKINGHAM

with scarcely any feature of special interest. The church, restored in 1901, is a wide building with chancel and nave built about 1120, two large aisles and low W. tower. The best features are the Norman work in the N. doorway, and the 17th-century roof of the chancel.

The Manor House at the S.W. end of the village, by the road to Thame, is a picturesque and noticeable old house, remodelled late in the 16th century.

Broughton (Newport Pagnell, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a small village on the main road from Woburn Sands to Newport Pagnell. The church, which stands on high ground, with an extensive view to the W., is a small building. The details are not particularly noticeable. Within the church are two old desks, to which are fastened by chains Jewel's "A Defence of the Apologie of the Church of England, Anno, 1567," and Erasmus's "Commentary." These were placed in the church in 1632. Note also the interesting paintings on N. and S. walls of nave, the Virgin with Infant Christ, a Doom, St Helena and St George and the Dragon.

Buckingham (London and North-Western Railway) gives its name to the county, and was made the capital when the kingdom was divided into shires by King Alfred in 886. Thirty-two years later we hear of Edmund the Elder lying with his army at Buckingham during his advances against the Danes. After the Conquest Walter Giffard, created Earl of Buckingham in 1070, possessed the manor, and members of this family continued the paramount lordship till Henry VIII. seized it after the execution of Edward Stafford, the last Duke of Buckingham of this family. In this same reign the assizes were removed to Aylesbury, and the town sank into unimportance.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

During the Civil Wars the Corporation took the Royalist side, but the town was never garrisoned, and sheltered Royalists and Parliamentarians alternately. In 1725 a fire destroyed much of the town.

At the present time Buckingham is chiefly interesting as a good example of the county town of the thirties and fifties of last century, for it does not increase in size, and it remains in appearance the same from decade to decade, and to some extent its prosperity rises or falls with the proprietorship of Stowe. There are various old houses such as Castle House in West Street, but the Market Square and the old Bull Ring are the best "bits." The church, finely placed on a height at the W. end of the town, is a tiresome, heavy modern Gothic building of the year 1777-81, and if it be contrasted with some of the fine Gothic churches in the villages it is curious to observe the difference in the result of treatment in the mediæval and the modern church, difficult to describe but very perceptible.

The St John's Royal Latin School, founded by Edward VI., is still in existence under modern conditions, though the building has been altered. Note a good N. doorway, which once was part of a chantry founded in the 12th century, and subsequently absorbed in the school.

Buckland (Aylesbury, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.; Wendover, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a prosperous village in the low-lying fields close to the northern limit of the Chilterns, and forms, with Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton, a closely connected group of villages. The church, which is in the centre of the village, has been much restored. The nave is separated by



THE OLD BULL RING, BUCKINGHAM

BUCKLAND—BULSTRODE PARK

circular piers, with octagonal capitals on N., from an aisle. The tower arch is E.E. The best architectural detail is the S. doorway (restored), which has a flower ornament, and a dripstone terminating in two mediæval heads. The font is Norman, with fluted ornament on the bowl, and is a fine work.

Bulstrode Park has one gate on Gerrard's Cross Common (*see*), another on the Oxford road, and a third on the Hedgerley road. The park of about 800 acres slopes in a semi-circle from the house, which stands on the site of a much older building, and was built by the Duke of Somerset in 1862. This property belonged to the Bulstrodes, then it was owned by Judge Jeffreys, who rebuilt the house in 1686.

It was subsequently sold to William III.'s favourite minister, William Bentinck, first Earl of Portland, who constantly lived here from the time of his retirement from active political life to his death in 1709. In the days of the second duke, Bulstrode became, under the rule of the Duchess (Lady Margaret Cavendish Harley), a social centre as well as a store house of beautiful things. Here was the rare Portland or Barberini vase which is now in the British Museum. "Bulstrode," wrote Mrs Montagu in 1741, "is the most charming place I ever saw." In the time of the third Duke of Portland (1738-1809) it became an important political mansion. Statesmen and politicians gathered here. First, the Rockingham Whigs, of which party the third duke was an important member; and then the friends of the curious Coalition Ministry (1783) of Fox and North, of which the Duke was the nominal

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

head ; and, next, Tories, when the French Revolution broke the Whig party, more especially after the Duke became one of Pitt's administration in 1794, and in the last years of his life, from 1807-1809, when, after the fall of his neighbour Lord Grenville's government, he again became Prime Minister, commencing that series of Tory administrations which was not broken till Lord Grey came into office and carried the Reform Bill of 1832.

The property passed by purchase in 1814 to the Duke of Somerset, and subsequently on his death, in 1885, to Sir John Ramsden.

An important "plateau" camp, oval in shape and covering 22 acres, is to be seen in S.E. of the park.

Burnham (Taplow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Burnham Beeches, 1 m.) is a large village on the edge of the Thames valley ; the greater part of it, more especially the upper or N.E. part, is modern. In the lower part of the main street are some old buildings of probably the 16th century, and in the street which runs from it to the E. end of the church are several others, for the ancient part of the village was grouped about the church. This (o) is one of the largest flint churches in the county, and has a nave, two aisles, chancel and north transept, with a tower at E. end of S. aisle. The most important features are the large D. windows—the E. window having five lights, the W. window has flowing tracery of rather noticeable design, while the window in the N. transept is an instructive specimen of late D., just on the verge of transition to P., the straight mullions running right to the head of the window give it the stiffness of the later style. The N. arches of the nave are Norman, a rude arch at E. end of S. aisle

BURNHAM

and another on S. side of chancel, are evidently of the same if not an earlier date. The rood screen is modern, but is designed after one, some remains of which were preserved to a recent date. In the chancel is a plain trefoil piscina. The S. door is also noteworthy, and appears to be earlier in date than the windows. There are several interesting monuments in this church on N. side of chancel, one, of which the inscription is now illegible, was transcribed by Lipscombe. The chief features of this monument are the two half-length figures of a man and woman — very realistic and powerful — representing George Evelyn of Huntercombe, 1657, and his wife, 1661.

On the S. side is a bust, in a niche, of a divine in gown and quilled ruff, also a good piece of work. This represents John Wright, Vicar of Burnham, 1561-1594. In the S. aisle is a monument by Bacon to Mr Justice Willes (d. 1787), a bas-relief, with one of the usual lamenting females holding the scales of justice. On a slab on west wall of nave are brass effigies of Edmund Eyre and his wife (1563); there are also brasses of Giles Eyre, Gent (c. 1500), and children, also of Thomas Eyre, Gent, of Allerds, 1581, with his three wives and children.

Burnham has a large and excellent Workmen's Library.

Burnham was of some ecclesiastical importance in the middle ages in consequence of the Augustinian Abbey which was founded in 1266 by Richard, King of the Romans. The

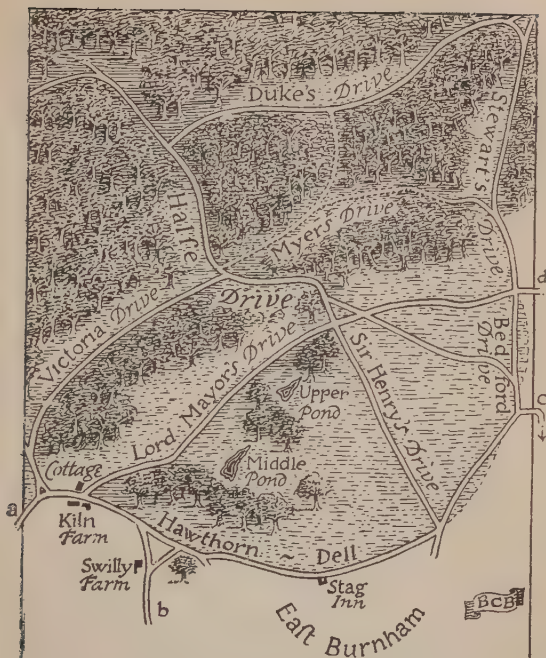
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

site of the abbey is $3\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the S. of the village across the Bath Road, on the right-hand side of the road to Dorney. The remains are now built up with farm buildings—but several E.E. details, doorways and windows, can be seen. Note the Chapter-House doorway and the remarkable wall with tiled coping which surrounds the field which adjoins the house.

Burnham is a convenient point from which to explore the Beeches. Follow the right or E. road at the top of the main street avoiding the first turn to the left, but taking the second, which leads to the S. end of the Lord Mayor's Drive.

East Burnham is a straggling collection of houses on the E. side of Burnham Beeches. Grote, the historian (*see* Introduction, p. 57) once lived at East Burnham House. Mrs Grote gives a description of East Burnham in her *Collected Papers* (London : Murray, 1862).

Burnham Beeches (to the cottage and farm at S. end of Lord Mayor's Drive, Taplow, 4 m., and Burnham Beeches Station $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. ; Slough $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles).—Burnham Beeches form, strictly speaking, a piece of woodland in which are comprised the unique old trees which are the historic beeches. Popularly it consists not only of the beeches and of woodland but of the adjoining commons, and may be said to be the area of ground purchased by the Corporation of the City of London in 1880, and now dedicated to the public use. The beeches grow on undulating ground, having on the E. East Burnham Common. They can be reached from any of the before-mentioned stations. If coming from Taplow make for Burnham (*see*), if from Burnham Beeches Station



☛ Reference : a. To Burnham Village ☛
 b. To Burnham Beeches Station ☛ c. To
 Farnham Royal ☛ d. To Stoke Common ☛

BURNHAM·BEECHES

BURNHAM BEECHES

go straight from the station, following the different sign-posts until the large "Swilly" pond near the edge of the wild part is reached, and then take left-hand road. This brings one to The Cottage and the end of Lord Mayor's Drive, which runs through the finest of the beeches from S.W. to N.E., and from it detours and walks can be taken according to individual taste. If coming from Slough go to Farnham Royal, and there join the before-mentioned road to "Swilly" pond, which detaches itself from the Farnham Road, or go through East Burnham and over East Burnham Common. The wild tract of undulating land, of which the Beeches form the centre, at the beginning of the 18th century extended to Taplow and the Woburn Valley, for we know that Dropmore was reclaimed by Lord Grenville from its uncultivated state in 1792. On the E. even now, with the exception of the small enclosures at East Burnham and the residences and fields between East Burnham and Stoke Common, which are comparatively modern enclosures, the uncultivated land, heath and wood extends—including Stoke Common and Black Park—to the Colne and the borders of Middlesex. Iver Heath, now all cultivated, tells by its name of its former state. The beeches are very striking. They are entirely unlike the ordinary wide-spreading tree, their short but huge branches, often fantastic in form, as though the natural strength of the trees had exhausted itself in a vain struggle for upward freedom, give them a weird individuality. They are pollarded trees, and many stories have grown from this,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

none of which are of any credibility. For unquestionably these trees were pollarded to supply crops of fuel. The history of the English forests shows the value which was attached to the fuel from the forests both by lords and adjoining inhabitants. The beech was seldom pollarded; it was allowed to grow to a lofty and shapely tree, and then cut wholly down, the beech-woods of Bucks being cropped at regular intervals. It is certain, therefore, that some time in their existence the trees must have been pollarded by an individual owner, whose successors must have allowed them to remain in the same state, lopping their new-grown limbs from time to time. Of their age nothing can be said with certainty. For years they have been in a state of very slow decay. In the ordinary course of natural growth the trees could hardly have reached their full size under a couple of centuries, but it is long since they attained their prime, so that it is not improbable that they were saplings not many years after the Conquest.

When Gray used to wander among them they probably differed little from their state to-day, for writing to Horace Walpole in 1737 he tells how "vale and hill are covered with most venerable beeches—that, like most other ancient people are always dreaming out their old stories to the winds."

The N. part of the Beeches beyond Victoria and Halse Drives is chiefly young woodland, with an occasional old pollarded beech, and forms a secluded and delightful rambling ground.

Calverton (Wolverton Station, 3 m.) is on



BURNHAM BEECHES

CALVERTON—CHALFONT ST GILES

the Northamptonshire border, and without interest. The church was entirely rebuilt in 1818. It has since been altered and restored. The Manor House near the church is a good example of a 15th-century building with later additions.

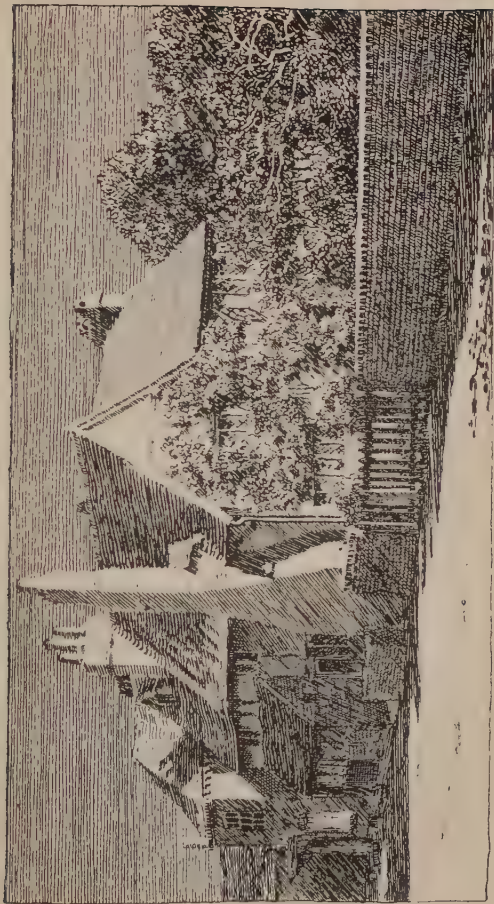
Castlethorpe (London and North-Western Railway) was at one time part of Hanslope, and a mere hamlet, is now a fair-sized village through its proximity to the railway. A conspicuous mound is its most noticeable feature, and tradition has it that there stood Hanslope Castle destroyed in the reign of King John; it was a Mount and Bailey. The church (o) is on N.E. side of the village, but is not noteworthy, and has been much changed. The tower is of the 18th century, there is a bold Dec. two-light E. window. The oldest portion of the building is the pillars on N. side of nave, which are Tran. N., the capitals having foliage of a rude kind. The font is late 15th-century work.

An elaborate Jacobean monument to Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 1671) and Bridget, his wife, is on N. side of chancel. The idea of it is unusual and rather pathetic—the semi-recumbent figure of the man is supported by his wife. The upper part of the memorial is poor.

Chalfont St Giles ($3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Chalfont Road Station and $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Chorleywood Station, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Gerrard's Cross, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Amersham Station).—The name in Domesday was Celfunde, perhaps = cold spring. St Giles is a pretty village with its red-tiled cottages grouped among the meadows, and a low square church tower rising from among them. Its chief interest centres in the ancient cottage which, there seems little doubt, was

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Milton's home for some months. Milton came to Chalfont to escape the plague in London, and occupied "a pretty box" which Ellwood obtained for him from the July 1665 till the following spring. Milton must have known the Chalfonts long before the year of the plague. He lived in early manhood for several years at Horton (*see*), and when in *L'Allegro* he takes the reader on a sunshine holiday to the "upland villages," he could only have had in his mind those which, like the Chalfonts, were within a ride of Horton. The cottage is on the left side of the main street leading up the hill. Within are some interesting Miltonian relics, but we prefer to think of the past, and to picture Milton sitting in the low-roofed parlour. It may have been in this room that Milton asked Ellwood to read the manuscript of *Paradise Lost*. At Chalfont he certainly first thought out the plan of *Paradise Regained*. The church (o), with a nave and two aisles, contains some remnants of good work—Norman bases to piers on S. side, a window and fine double piscina, E.E., on S. side of the chancel, a single light window, Dec., on N. side of chancel, and a Norman font, restored. There are brasses under the recess in S. wall of S. aisle of a man and two women, and on altar tomb at E. end of aisle the effigies of William Gardyner, Esq., and Anne, his wife, with nine children, 1558, and on N. wall of N. aisle, a palimpsest inscription. On the N. wall of chancel within the communion rails are the effigies of Sir Thomas Fleetwood, his two wives and eighteen children, and on the same



MILTON'S COTTAGE, CHALFONT ST. GILES

CHALFONT ST PETER

wall the small effigy of an ecclesiastic (c. 1471). Note several old pews, and an ancient alms-box near W. door, and the remains of a mural painting on S. wall, also the pleasing S. doorway, Dec., with ball-flower ornament.

The lych gate and the two adjoining cottages, probably late 16th century, at the entrance of the churchyard should not be overlooked. Two pleasant paths, one starting from the church, and the other from opposite the Pheasant Inn in the London Road, converge about a mile from the village, and continuing through a fine avenue of Scotch firs, finally lead to Rickmansworth (*see* Guide to Herts). A little way from the village, on the left of the road to Chalfont Road Station, is the Vache, which seems to derive its name from the family of De la Vache, who acquired the property in 1360. The Vache subsequently passed into the possession of the Fleetwoods, but reverted to the Crown on the attainder of Col. George Fleetwood, one of those who signed the warrant for the execution of Charles I.

Chalfont St Peter ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Gerrard's Cross Station; Chalfont Road Station, 5 m.; 6 m. from Uxbridge Station), without any special features has an undefined picturesqueness, especially when approached from the uplands on either side of the Misbourne Valley. The rambling old Greyhound Inn (17th century) is the most noticeable house in the village. The Grange, a modern country house, between the Uxbridge and Gerrard's Cross roads, is built on the site of the house inhabited by Isaac Pennington from 1657 to 1665, whose stepdaughter Gulielma Springett became the first wife of William Penn. The Grange

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

was for several years a meeting-place for Quakers, the two Chalfonts being the centre of a notable amount of Quakerism in the early part of that religious movement. Isaac Pennington was an especial martyr to the religious enthusiasm of the Friends, being imprisoned four times in Aylesbury gaol, and his family was obliged to leave the Grange in 1665. A pathway (left) at S. (London) end of the village leads through the meadows and Chalfont Park to a by-road to Denham, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. The house belonging to the park is seen by the lake. It has some literary interest, for it belonged to Charles Churchill, nephew of the great Duke of Marlborough, who, in 1746, married Lady Maria Walpole, the sister of Horace Walpole, who, from 1760, frequently spent a day or two here, and left some of his Strawberry Hill influence on the architecture of the place. The property passed out of the possession of the Churchills in 1792.

In the uplands, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. to the N.E., is the colony of the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics, an institution modelled on that of Bielefeld, and established—the first of its kind in England—in 1893. It can be visited at any time.

The church (o) is modern, but contains five brasses on N. wall of chancel. Note the palimpsest brass of a priest. The first figure has been altered by the rounding of the toes and the addition of shading, so as to bring the figure (1540) into harmony with the dress of a century later than that of the original brass.

The other brasses commemorate William Whappelode (1398) and wife, Eliz. It was

CHARTERIDGE—CHEDDINGTON

not engraved, however, till 1446, which is also the date of a brass to son of above.

In the vestry is preserved a communion service of pewter (1661-1693).

Charteridge is a new parish with a modern church on the high ground to the N.E. of Chesham.

Chearsley (Thame, G.W.R., 4 m., Haddenham, G.C., $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a small village on high ground on the side of the Thame Valley. The cottages lie along the broken ground very prettily. The church is to the S. of the village down a steep lane. It has a W. tower built in the first half of 15th century with turret, nave, and chancel. The marks of the high-pitched roof can still be seen in the tower. This church is now marked chiefly by P. features. The fine font, with early 13th-century circular bowl fluted below with cable and flower ornaments above, is to be noted. In the floor of the chancel, almost immediately beneath the reading desk, is a well-preserved brass to John Frankeleyn and his wife Margaret, 1462.

Cheddington (London and North-Western Railway) is without any feature of interest, nor is the church of any importance, though it is well situated on a hillock with a pleasant belt of trees around. It has a low W. tower, nave, aisle and chancel; the 17th-century pulpit and communion table are noticeable.

Cheddington, however, possesses in its "lynchets" an object of considerable importance. They will be found to the S.W. of the village and are a conspicuous object on the landscape. They consist of three broad terraces on the hillside facing E. Of course various absurd traditions

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

are preserved about them in local histories, but their true nature has been now clearly established. They are survivals of the common field system which was an important element in the Saxon and mediæval village community. "When a hillside," says Mr Seebohm in his now classical work on *The English Village Community*, "formed part of the open field the strips almost always were made to run, not up and down the hill, but horizontally along it; and in ploughing, the custom for ages was always to turn the sod of the furrow downhill, the plough consequently always returning one way idle. If the whole hillside were ploughed in one field, this would result in a gradual travelling of the soil from the top to the bottom of the field, and it might not be noticed. But as in the open-field system the hillside was ploughed in strips with unploughed walks between them, no sod could pass in the ploughing from one strip to the next; but the process of moving the sod downwards would go on age after age just the same within each individual strip. In other words, every year's ploughing took a sod from the higher edge of the strip and put it on the lower edge; and the result was that strips became in time long level terraces one above the other, and the walks between them grew into steep rough banks of long grass covered often with natural self-sown bramble and bushes."

The lynchets of Cheddington are the best examples in the county of an agricultural and social feature of much historical interest.

Chenies, once Isenhampstead-Cheyne (Chorleywood, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. Chalfont Road, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.).—This

CHENIES

village is altogether charming in its neatness and abundance of little flower gardens, its ancient elms and its outlook over the hanging woods of the valley of the Chess. The chief object of interest is the Chapel of the Russells, built 1556, which forms part of, though separated from the church (key at cottage opposite) which has been much restored, and has Dec. pillars and arches and a N. font. The Russell monuments have been described and their suggestiveness pointed out by Mr Froude in his essay on "Chenies and The House of Russell"—*Short Studies on Great Subjects*, vol. iv.

The chapel is not open to the public, though special orders may sometimes be obtained from the Bedford Office, Bloomsbury. Some view however of these memorials can be obtained from the church. The lords of this manor were, firstly, Cheynes. Note the fine brass of Lady Agnes Cheyne on W. wall of S. aisle. The date of her death is obliterated; but the date of her second husband, Edmund Molyneux, is 1484. Then came the Sapcotes. Anne, daughter of Sir Guy Sapcote, married Sir John Russell, the statesman of Henry VIII.'s time, who was created Baron Russell 1539. Through him Chenies entered into the possession of the Russell family. The monuments have artistic as well as historical interest as examples of English monumental sculpture, from the 15th century to our own time. Most conspicuous are the three monuments at the E. end.

Space will not permit the monuments to be described in detail. An accurate account of them

will be found in *Chenies Church and Monuments* by Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, London, 1901 (privately printed), and no one should omit to read Froude's description. The most important is that to John, first Earl of Bedford, K.G. (died 1554), the first statesman of a remarkable family, and Anne Sapcote, his countess. The magnificent and beautiful memorial—two recumbent effigies in alabaster on a rich altar tomb—is in the centre of the chapel under the E. window. S. is the somewhat similar but inferior monument of Francis, second Earl, and his wife. N. is another altar tomb with alabaster effigy, and richly coloured—Anne, Countess of Warwick, daughter of the second Earl. In the centre of the Chapel is a plain marble slab on Tuscan columns that commemorates Lady Frances Bouchier, granddaughter of the second Earl. In the centre of N. wall is the memorial to Frances, Lady Chandos—a reclining figure. On the S. side is a memorial similar in character to the two first-mentioned monuments, but with a double-arched niche surmounted by a pediment. This is to Francis, fourth Earl, and his Countess and two daughters. This monument was erected by the Earl himself before his death (died 1641), and it was he who erected the monument to Francis, second Earl, and to the Countess of Warwick. Against the W. wall is a large 17th-century monument to William, first Duke of Bedford (died 1711)—the Duke and Duchess being seated side by side—and a medallion of Lord William Russell (beheaded 1683) is in the centre of the upper portion. A characteristic 18th-century work

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(erected 1769) commemorates Wrothesley, second Duke (died 1711). It is allegorical in character from designs by Sir W. Chambers, R.A. This stands against the S. wall. The memorial of Earl Russell (Lord John Russell), the Whig statesman, (1792-1878) is similar to that of Lady Frances Bouchier, and is near S. wall, W. of door leading to the church. Lord Ampthill (1829-1884), the diplomatist, is commemorated by a tablet on S. wall over the memorial to Earl Russell. The monument in the form of a bronze candelabrum is that to Lord Arthur Russell (1857-1885). Other monuments of less importance cannot here be enumerated. The windows were placed (1895-97) to commemorate those of the House of Russell, of whom no other memorial exists. They are from designs by C. E. Kempe, M.A.

In addition to the brasses already mentioned are several others of considerable interest, namely, (1) the well-preserved brass of Anna Phelip (c. 1510), who holds a heart, and stands in a Dec. niche; (2) Agnes Johnson, in a long robe and hood (c. 1511); (3) Elizabeth, daughter of John Broughton (1524), with long flowing hair; (4) in the inner porch are John Walliston, Smythe (c. 1469) and his two wives; and (5) left of (2) a vested prior.

A few yards down the hill (on the main road to Chesham) right hand, is a bridle road through an avenue of old elms whence there is a charming view up the valley of the Chess, specially beautiful in evening light. The road leads across the valley to Sarratt (Herts). The pathway at the west end of the church leads to the Monks' Walk, with some traditions of a ghost—a shady

pathway along the brow of the hill. The Manor House adjoining the Church is an excellent example of 16th-century domestic architecture. The house which once stood there was rebuilt about the middle of the 16th century.

Chequers Court (not open to public. Kimble Station, 2 m.) is one of the historic houses of Bucks. In 1917 it was given by its owner, Sir Arthur Lee, to the nation as a future residence for the Prime Minister or other high official. It is built on a grassy gap in the Chilterns and is surrounded by trees and beech woods. Architecturally it is of interest as an example of a domestic building of the 16th century, for it was built in 1566. In the Georgian period it was defaced by additions of incongruous details, which have now been removed. The library, which extends along the S. front, is a noticeable room, eighty-one feet long. Chequers has attained a celebrity from the collection of portraits of Cromwell and his family which it contains. The most important are those of the Protector's two sons and four daughters. There are three of Cromwell himself, but one, that of Cromwell as a child, is not regarded as genuine by good authorities. They found a home at Chequers through the marriage of Cromwell's youngest daughter, Frances, to Sir John Russell of Chippenham, Cambridgeshire, whose grandson, Col. Charles Russell, married Joanna Cutts Revett, heiress of her mother, Joanna Thurbarne, who was heiress by will of Mary, the last of the Crokes, who had inherited Chequers from the Hawtreys early in the 17th century.

The ownership of Chequers can be traced

CHEQUERS COURT—CHESHAM

through a long line of possessors for 700 years. The first owner of the property is described as Elias de Scaccariis or Elias Chakers in the 12th century.

Lipscomb derives the name of the place from a supposed storehouse of the Exchequer, but the situation of the house makes this supposition unlikely. If the property were that of some officer of the Exchequer, perhaps the place took its name from him. The derivation must at present be considered as uncertain.

Chequers Court and its park are seen from the road between Butler's Cross and Great Missenden, or from the heights of the Chilterns, which overlook it on the E.

Chesham (G.C. & Met. Railway) is a flourishing little town (population in 1901, 7245) at the head of the valley of the Chess, and a convenient place from which to make excursions into the pleasant country between Chesham, the Chilterns and the Hertfordshire border. Chesham is now so modern in appearance that it is less attractive than the other little towns of the Chilterns. A few old houses with overhanging eaves and lattice windows may still be found in Church Street, and near the Broadway. The church (S.W. side of town—key at rectory near church), which is a large cruciform structure, stands on the site of a Norman church, of which only half a window in the W. wall of N. transept is left. Of E.E. work observe the lower part of the tower below the string course, a lancet window in W. wall of N. aisle and the nave arches; and of Dec., porch with a groined roof, stoupe and inner doorway with ball-flower decorations, and

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the chancel of P., the west window of nave, also windows in N. and S. walls of the transepts, as well as clerestory windows.

Note on the N. wall of chancel a curious monument to Richard Woodcote, 1623, and several old sundials on the buttresses of S. aisle, and in the parvise over the porch, entered by turret stair from S. aisle, fragments of N. work.

Near the church is the Bury, a good 17th-century house.

Ghesham Bois (1 m. S.S.E. Chesham; $\frac{7}{8}$ m. N. of Amersham) consists of a few scattered cottages and many new houses on the S. of Chesham Bois Common, on the large ridge which divides the valley of the Chess from the Misbourne Valley. The church is finely situated in a pleasant meadow overlooking the valley of the Chess, and is approached through a drive, which is the entrance to a private house. In 1881 the tower was rebuilt and placed at S.W. angle, and the building generally has been much restored. There is a carved pulpit (17th-century), and in the floor of the chancel a small brass to Benedict Lee (1520) of a chrysom child (the chrysom was the white cloth in which an infant was wrapped immediately after baptism, and which served as a shroud if the child died within a month of its birth). Adjoining are two fine 16th-century brasses, memorials of Elizabeth, wife of Robert Cheyne, Gent., 1516, and of Robert Cheyne, Esq., 1552, showing much elaboration of treatment both in the features and dress.

Ghetwode (Finmere Station, Oxon., $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.;

CHESHAM BOIS—CHICHELEY

Buckingham, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is another of those places in the county which in reality had no village, the church being the centre of the parish. It adjoined the Augustinian Priory, founded in 1244 by Sir Ralphe de Norwich, of which it was the conventual church. It is a building which has no outward attraction,—the tower at N.W. angle appears to be E.E. but is poor,—its importance lies in the chancel, which is fine E.E., with a five-light E. window, and a N. and S. triplet with flowers and animals on the capitals of the shafts. The S. window has old glass of the 13th and 14th centuries—depicting five figures. On S. side is a beautiful arcade with shafts and foliated capitals, and the toothed ornament in hollow mouldings. One compartment forms the doorway into the gardens of the priory (where there is a key of the church). On a slab in the chancel is an inscription to the memory of Risley Risley, 1755, which mentions, among his other virtues, the pleasant trait that “he was a gentleman of great hospitality.”

Chicheley (Newport Pagnell, 2 m.) is a picturesque place, consisting of some thatched cottages under large trees by the roadside, and on S. of road the white-gabled rectory and the church, with grey, ivy-covered tower, a fair-sized building pleasantly placed, but of no interest, having much modern and some poor mediæval work. Note a curious monument on wall of N. aisle, to Anthony Cave, erected by his widow in 1576. On the sarcophagus lies a skeleton under a canopy. Singularly enough the

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same subject is depicted on a brass, a monument to one of the Caves (c. 1560).

There are two well-preserved brasses on the floor, in same part of the church, to Anthony Cave and his wife (1558), though a figure in armour suitable to a much earlier time has been used for this memorial.

Chilton (Thame, 4 m.; Watton, G.C. & G.W.R., $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.) — Domesday, Ciltone — is a village well worth a visit. Nowhere is the aspect of a 17th-century village more thoroughly preserved. It lies at the S.W. of a ridge (450 ft.), and at the N. side is sheltered by the slopes of a small hollow. In the past it was chiefly identified with the Crokes, who were lords of the manor from about 1529 to 1682. Sir George Croke was a Judge of the King's Bench, during the trying times which preceded the Rebellion, and he had the strength of character to give judgment against the claim of the Crown for ship money.

The church, which stands at the N. side of the village—note the picturesque half-timbered cottages near the S. entrance to the churchyard—is a remarkable building. Approached from the S. no tower is to be seen, for it is a low E.E. structure, on the N. side of the church, giving the interior the appearance of having a N. transept. An E.E. S. transept and a P. porch, with a room above, are the features which at once attract notice. The chancel is E.E., while the broad nave, with an oak roof, is P. On the E. wall (outside) of the nave a stone effigy of a knight in chain armour has been placed in an upright position,

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it is only visible from the wall of the churchyard. It must have been removed from the interior of the church and placed in this extraordinary position when the present nave was built. The S. aisle has been elongated by the addition of what may be called the Croke Chapel, which contains an elaborate monument to Sir John Croke, Knt., (1608), and Elizabeth, his wife (1611)—though some of its details are poor it is as a whole a fine piece of work. The life size recumbent figures of Sir John and his wife, which lie between black marble columns supporting a canopy, the eleven children who kneel below, show unusual variety of expression and great minuteness of execution. The oak screen which divides this chapel from the chancel is probably of later date than its style would indicate. It has not the delicacy of workmanship which is to be seen in true D. wood work. To the E. of the churchyard is an old brick wall, beyond which is the Manor House of the Crokes rebuilt in 1740.

Chilton is second only to Brill in the extent of its views, and is perhaps more attractive from the broken and wooded hillside to the E. of the village. A fine view to the W. is obtained from the road to the S. of the village, but perhaps the most delightful view is that from a field by the side of the road a little beyond, and on the opposite side to the church, which is easily recognised from the old Scotch firs which are growing in it. From this place not only are the wooded slopes of Brill Hill, and the long avenues of Wooton to be seen, but to the E. the village forms an agreeable foreground, while to the S.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

the blue line of the Chilterns breaks the horizon.

Cholesbury (Wendover, 4 m.; Chesham, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a scattered village on the N. end of a high common (620 ft.) on the uplands between the summit of the Chilterns and Chesham. The church (o), rebuilt 1872-73 of the old materials, is an interesting little building with bellcot, nave, and chancel. It is mainly Dec., but the chief feature of interest is the E.E. south porch. To the N. of the church is a well-preserved plateau camp grown over but not hidden by trees. It now commences close to the vicarage, and returns in a semicircle to a point S.E. of the church, the site of which it once enclosed. It consists of a ditch and rampart; and, having regard to the conformation of the ground, it must at one time have formed a strong, if rude, fortification. It covers 15 acres.

Gippenham to the S. of, and in the parish of Burnham is now an insignificant little hamlet with no traces of the Royal Palace occupied by the Mercian kings and the early Norman monarchs, or of the chapel granted by Henry III. to the Abbess of Burnham.

Claytons, The. — It is convenient to regard the small parishes of Steeple, Middle and East Claydon and the hamlet of Botolph Claydon as a single community, for they are close together and are characterised by the same natural features.

CHOLESBURY—THE CLAYDONS

Each, too, is associated with the family of the Verneys. Claydon House itself stands within a stone's throw of Middle Claydon church.

Steppul or Steeple Claydon (Claydon, L. and N. W., $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ; Verney Junction, $2\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is the northernmost of the three parishes. The village, the largest of the three, stands on an elevation, whence wide and pleasant views are obtained of Brill Hill and Ashendon to the W. ; the Chilterns to the N., over well-wooded pastures. The church is one of the few in the county with a spire. It has been much restored, and parts are modern ; it presents no feature of interest. The E. window is Dec. The beautiful situation of this building is its attraction. To the N. of the church is an old stone barn with an inscription telling that the Parliamentary army, under the command of Cromwell, was encamped here in March 1644. In the village itself is a simple building which is a free library. Each of the Claydons possesses this valuable addition to village life, and are some of the few villages in England which have had the good sense to adopt the Free Libraries Act.

Botolph Claydon, as already stated, is only a hamlet, though a large one, and lies to the S.W. of East Claydon on the road to Claydon House and Middle Claydon. At the E. end is Botolph House, an old brick-and-stone Manor House, shaded by an old cedar.

East Claydon (Winslow Road, 1 m.) is a delightful village on high ground overlooking the county to the E. and S., characterised by the same black-and-white cottages, many having a

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17th-century date, under shady elms, as its neighbour Botolph Claydon. At the E. side of the village, almost immediately opposite the church, is the Manor House farm, called the White House, with its long white walls and porch hidden in creepers. No one should pass it by unnoticed, but when we remark how old it is, it becomes doubly interesting. Here in 1658 lived Mr Abel, the sheriff of the county, and here Edmund Verney, the eldest son of Sir Ralph and his wife Mary, the daughter of Mr Abel, lived from their marriage in 1662, and it has hardly been touched since that time. The church, which is reached by a short lane near the sign-post which points to Winslow, is sufficiently isolated to give one a sense of tranquillity—with the outstretching country to the S., which is only broken by the low line of the Chilterns—but it has not much except its delightful position to recommend it to the stranger. But this is sufficient. Architecturally it is without special individuality, and has been a good deal rebuilt since its foundation. The details are Dec. and P., but are poor, and some are probably really 17th and 18th-century work.

Middle Claydon (Winslow Road Station, $2\frac{1}{4}$ m.) lies midway between Steeple and East Claydon, being rather a parish than a village, and having its centre in the church and in Claydon House, which stand side by side—the church a little to the S. of the house, which was the Manor House of Claydon, and dates back for many centuries. An old drawing depicts the N. front of Claydon House in the 17th century.

THE CLAYDONS

with two wings and a recessed centre. It was almost entirely rebuilt in 1752 by the second Earl Verney from designs by the brothers Adam. Some of the new work was pulled down by his successor, but the fine saloon, the unique Chinese room, and the staircase, with its beautiful wrought-iron banisters, among other portions still remain. This house contains some beautiful Adams' cornices and chimney-pieces, and the best collection of portraits in the county. Perhaps the finest is that of Sir Francis Verney by an unknown Spanish artist, though the portraits by Vandyke of Charles I., of Sir Edmund Verney and Dame Mary Verney are beautiful pictures. The pictures are sometimes shown by special permission, many have been reproduced in the *Memoirs of the Verney Family*. The history of the Verney family has thrown no little light on the society of the several ages in which they lived, and it has been told in the important *Memoirs of the Verney Family during the Civil War* (1892), and in the two volumes which have more recently completed the work. The Verneys were originally of Fleet Marston—John de Verney having married in 1229 Alice, co-heiress of Geoffrey Bellew of Fleet Marston. Sir Ralph Verney, Lord Mayor of London, sheriff in 1456, had been knighted by Edward IV., with eleven other citizens, soon after the battle of Tewkesbury. To him were granted several forfeited properties in Bucks, and he purchased the manor and advowson of Middle Claydon, though he presently let the property on a long lease to the Giffards. He died in 1478 in London. Passing over

several generations we come to Sir Francis, who became an Algerine pirate, and died in Sicily; and to Sir Edmund, who took over the remainder of the Claydon lease, and returned there in 1620. He married Margaret Denton of Hillesden. A faithful if a reluctant adherent of Charles I., he lost his life for him at Edgehill in 1642. Then came Sir Ralph, the judicious Parliamentarian, who died in 1696. His son, Sir John, was created Baron Verney, Viscount Fermanagh. The second Earl Verney, who died in 1791, was succeeded by his niece, who was created Baroness Fermanagh, and through her half-sister Claydon descended by will to Sir Harry Calvert, who subsequently assumed the name of Verney.

Middle Claydon church (the key can be obtained at Claydon House) stands on the S. side of the house. It can be reached by either of the entrances of the park—on N. side from the road to Claydon Station or Verney Junction, on S. a road from East Claydon and Winslow Road Station. It is a small church, with nave and chancel, the latter in the P. style, begun in 1509 and finished in 1519, and the whole has been practically rebuilt.

The monuments and brasses which it contains give it much interest. The oldest monument is a simple altar tomb in the chancel with an effigy in alabaster of a lady richly habited, a Giffard, with the date 1539. On the N. wall of chancel is a characteristic Jacobean monument, to Urian and Lettice Verney (1608), of the kind so familiar to those who have studied the churches of England, a man and wife kneeling at either side of a desk.



THE SUNDIAL, CLAYDON HOUSE



THE CLAYDONS—CLIFTON REYNES

On the S. wall is an immense monument, which Sir Ralph Verney caused to be designed and executed in Rome in 1652, to the memory not only of his father and mother, but also to his wife and himself. The main features of this monument are the fine busts in niches surmounted by the usual cherubs, skulls, Faith and Hope, vases, etc. The brasses are important and well preserved. On the N. wall of chancel is the fine monument to Roger Giffard, builder of the chancel, and Mary (Mansicles), his wife, of the date 1542—a knight in armour and his wife in coif and wimple. This is one of the largest brasses in the county, the figure of Roger Giffard being 5 feet in height. Below the principal figures are effigies of no less than twenty children. Another brass at the foot of the pulpit—of an ecclesiastic—represents the last Roman Catholic chantry priest, another Giffard (1526). From his mouth issues a scroll, and below an inscription which has been regarded as puzzling—"Orate pro a' i' a D'are Alexandri Anne p'sbateri." There is also a third brass of Isabel Giffard (1523); a modern brass or medallion of the late Sir Harry Verney (d. 1894), and another, with an embossed border, to Susan Merry, executed by Mr and Mrs Dawson of the Artisans Guild. Both are on N. wall of nave, and are interesting pieces of modern work, the more so as they can be compared with work of mediæval artists.

Clifton Reynes (Domesday, Cliston and Clistone)—the village and parish obtained the second name from the family of Reynes—is a small village on the S. side of the Ouse, which can only be reached

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from Olney by way of Emberton, or by a footpath across the meadows starting from near Olney Church, or by a ford at Lavendon Mill. The small church (o), however, is very interesting. It is a short building, with nave, aisles, and chancel, a small N. chapel, tower (12th century) and S. porch. The nave is curiously high, with Dec. battlements. It has lancet arches, indicative of the transition from E.E. to Dec., but the windows are both Dec. and P. The font, of late 14th-century work, is noteworthy, with figures, much worn, in panels round the upper part. This church contains some remarkable monuments. The earliest of these is within a canopied recess in the N. wall of the N. aisle, "and consists of two recumbent effigies, male and female, carved in oak, and resting on a modern slab supported by brackets. The knight or warrior is represented in the usual armour of the 13th century, but the leg armour, which was probably shown in colours, has disappeared. The spurs also are gone, but the straps remain. The right leg is crossed over the left; with the right hand he is sheathing his sword, and with the left he holds the scabbard. His head rests on two cushions, and his feet on a dog, very rudely figured. The lady's costume is, of course, of the same period. She wears over her head a veil, which falls on each side of the face to the shoulders. The neck and chin are covered with a wimple, reaching almost to the under lip. The dress is low in front about the neck, and falls in folds down to the feet. The gown is sleeveless, with long slits for the arms. The hands are raised in prayer. The monument has neither date nor inscription, but has been supposed to represent Simon de



CLIFTON REYNES CHURCH—THE REYNES CHAPEL.

CLIFTON REYNES—CLIVEDEN

Borard, who died about 1260, and who owned the Manor of Clifton in the 13th century, and Margaret, his wife. Under the lower arch between the chancel and aisle are two more effigies, carved in oak, but seemingly of a later date. The monument has no inscription or date, but from the armorial bearings it has been assigned to Ralph de Reynes, lord of the manor, and his wife, Amabel (c. 1310). It should be noted that wooden effigies are rare, and are seldom to be found in any part of England, and these are the only examples in this county. Under E. arch is another monument with two recumbent effigies carved in white stone. It bears no date or inscription, but was probably erected, c. 1375, to Sir John Reynes and his first wife, Catherine. On the floor of the Reynes Chancel is the brass effigy of Sir John Reynes (1428), also effigies of a man and his wife in shrouds—inscription lost, but thought to be a memorial to John Reynes and his second wife, Agnes.

Cliveden (Taplow Station, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a corruption of Clifden. The large white house on the high land immediately above the Thames, where it bends below Cookham Lock to the W., the picturesque grounds along the brink of the Thames, and the beautiful hanging woods, are known to everyone who has passed any time on this river. It has had some curious changes in its ownership, and now "the bower of wanton Shrewsbury and love" has fallen into the possession of a naturalised American millionaire. The first house, a huge pile, was built by George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham. It subse-

quently belonged to the first Earl of Orkney, and later to Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George III. Afterwards it became the property of the Duke of Sutherland, and by the marriage of the first Duke of Westmoreland with Lady Constance Leveson Gower it passed into the possession of the Grosvenor family. It was burnt down in 1795, rebuilt in 1830, again burnt down and rebuilt by the Duke of Buckingham in 1849 from the designs of Sir Charles Barry, and is one of the masterpieces of that great architect.

Cold Brayfield (Olney, Midland Railway, 3 m.; Turvey, Beds., Midland Railway, 2 m.) is a small parish without a village. The church and an adjoining farm stand to the N. of Brayfield House, the park of which slopes down to the Ouse. It is a small and poor but early church with chancel, nave, and W. tower. The N. porch is E.E., and is the best feature of the building.

Coleshill (Amersham Station, $2\frac{1}{4}$ m.) was formerly an isolated bit of Hertfordshire, several miles from the rest of the county. It is now rather a bleak village, with a common and a small modern church. Here, at the Manor House, was born Edmund Waller the poet (1605)—*see* Introduction, p. 55, and Beaconsfield. This 16th-century house, now called Stocks Place, is in the centre of the village opposite the schools. Near it is Waller's oak. Tradition has it that in a hollow of this old tree the poet used to sit and write verses, but this fiction probably grew from this fine tree being called Waller's oak through its proximity to his birthplace.

COLD BRAYFIELD—CUDDINGTON

Colnbrook (Station, $\frac{1}{2}$ m.), once a municipal borough, is now a large, uninteresting village on either side of the main road. On S. side are a few old houses, the Ostrich Inn especially should be noted. The church is modern.

Creslow (Aylesbury, $6\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—Domesday, *Creselai*—consists of an ancient Manor House S. of the road from Aylesbury to Whitchurch; below it immense pastures slope to Creslow Brook—often too well known to hunting men—the largest, the Great Field, is 300 acres. For centuries they were the feeding ground of cattle for the royal kitchen, as is recited in 1596 by Queen Elizabeth's letters patent granting to one Mayne the post of keeper and herd for twenty years. In 1673 they were conveyed absolutely to Thomas, Lord Clifford. About 1800 they were held as tenant by a farmer named Westcar. A quaint agricultural monument can be seen to him in the church; he gained many prizes for his cattle. These great fields have since continued to be important feeding pastures.

Creslow was at one time a parish, but its history is obscure. At the time of the Dissolution of the monasteries the manor belonged to the Knights Hospitallers. The Manor House, built c. 1330, now a farmhouse, is an interesting example of mediæval domestic architecture—note an octagonal tower at S. end, some mullioned windows and a crypt with a groined roof, now a cellar. Adjoining are some relics of the chapel.

Cublington (Leighton Buzzard, L. & N.W. Ry., 5 m.)—a secluded little village, standing high among the pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury, with a small early 15th-century church. The nave is wholly of this date, the other parts have been slightly restored. Note a plain oak chest in vestry, late 12th- or early 13th-century work.

Cuddington (Haddenham, G.W. & G.C.R., 2 m.; Aylesbury, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is on the main road between Aylesbury and the W. of the county. The church, at N. side of

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the village, has a chancel, nave, with aisles, A.S. chapel, and tower with stair turret at N.E. corner. In the S. chapel are two windows with P. tracery and a dripstone with finely carved heads. The E. windows of the nave and S. chapel are early Dec., the capitals of the piers E.E., the font is late N. Note the S. doorway, c. 1260. On the N. side of the church is an interesting old house with the date on a doorway, 1609, now used for a village club.

Cymbeline's Mount, or Kimble Castle, are the popular names for the extreme point (530 feet) of the high grassy promontory in the parish of Ellesborough, a spur of the Chilterns, which extends into the lowland, between Ellesborough and the Kimbles. It is a conspicuous object for a long distance, and its formation is similar to that of many places the extremity of which has become a fortified post. When approached the end is found to be a conical hill with smooth sides except on S., where it is connected by a neck with the main range of the Chilterns. The banks and ditches of a rude fortification are still visible, and apparently it was a mount and bailey castle. Possibly it was a fortified position during both the Roman and Saxon dominion, dominating as it did the important Icknield Way, and commanding a large extent of fertile country. But there is absolutely no historical evidence of any connection between *Cymbeline's Mount* and an abode of the British king whose residence was at *Camulodunum* (Colchester). But as his coinage shows that *Cymbeline* also reigned at *Verulamium* (St Albans), which was not distant from the Chiltern range, it is not too far-fetched a supposition that

CYMBELINE'S MOUNT—DATCHET

one who has been called "Rex Brittanorum" should have had a fortified outpost on the grassy hill which would furnish so admirable a military station.

Datchet (South-Western Railway)—(Domesday, *Daceta*) is a pleasant little river-side town. The centre is marked by a useless Jubilee cross (1897), quite inartistic in design. There are a few old houses, while those of modern erection are simple and agreeable. The church (o), close to the green, is of some size; it was entirely rebuilt in 1857-60.

There are several 18th-century monuments within the church, but the most noteworthy is the brass on N. wall of chancel within the altar rails, to Richard Hanbery (1593), a citizen and goldsmith of London, and Ales, his wife, which is a marked example of the tendency of late brasses to become pictorial in treatment. This brass is oblong, the man in a gown kneels at an altar, opposite to him is his wife, and between them two books. One mile on the London Road (left side), N. of Datchet, is Ditton Park, the property of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. The Manor of Ditton was at one time held by Sir John de Molyns, who is so closely connected with Stoke Poges (*see*). It is, however, through Sir Ralph Winwood (1563-1617) that Ditton and Datchet gain some historical importance. After a long course of valuable diplomatic service in France, and more

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especially in Holland, Winwood became Secretary of State and M.P. for Bucks in 1614, and in 1615-17 James I. appointed him Keeper of the Messuage and Park of Ditton. Here he built a mansion on the site of a mediæval building, which became his country house for the remainder of his life, so Ditton and Datchet are closely bound up with his later years. In February 1629-30, Lady Winwood purchased Ditton Park. Winwood's house was destroyed by fire in 1812, and in the following year the present house, a large, rambling, semi-castellated building, was erected by Elizabeth, Duchess of Buccleuch, to whom the estate had descended through Anne, only daughter of Sir R. Winwood, who married Lord Montagu, and whose son became owner of Ditton on the death of his uncle. N.E. of the house is a chapel, with a nave, chancel and S. porch; on the E. wall is the date 1617, and on the W. wall that of 1817.

Denham (Station, G.W. & G.C.R., 1 m.) is remarkable for its many examples, in and near, of mediæval domestic architecture. It is a delightful old-world village with a single street of picturesque houses; large elm trees, pleasant meadows and little streams, among which it lies—characteristic of the valley of the Colne—add to the charm of the place. The 14th-century church, of flint, is agreeably placed among overhanging trees at the S.E. end of the village. Internally it has considerable merit in its proportions, and has a nave with two aisles. There should be noted a 16th-century monument to Sir E. Peckham and his wife, on the N. side of the altar—the recumbent figures lie side by side, the feet have been care-

DENHAM

fully restored with old fragments. The treatment of the heads and features, though wanting in refinement, is evidently the work of a sculptor imbued with the spirit of the Renaissance. At the entrance of the chancel N. is a brass, 3 feet, to Dame Agnes Jordan, last Abbess of Sion (1544), one of the two extant brasses in England to an abbess; the other is at Elstow, Beds. The features are broadly but accurately portrayed. On the opposite side is a well-preserved brass of an ecclesiastic, Robert Thornhill, "parson of Denham" (1612). There are also brasses to Walter Duredent and his two wives (1494), and of three boys and a girl. A palimpsest brass now affixed to a movable frame was originally a monument to a friar, but on this design has been engraved the effigy of Amphyllis Peckham (1445). It shows the ingenuity with which the later artist has adapted the outlines of the first to those of the second figure. An incised stone slab, with a figure of a man in a gown, Philip Edelen (1656), in the S. wall of the chancel, is an example of a rare kind of work, probably an attempt of a brass worker to adapt his art to a different material. A painting on the S. wall of nave should not be overlooked, nor an octagonal font (E.E.). The fine avenue of limes close to the church leads to Denham Court. Memories of Dryden still linger about this house, for he often visited Sir W. Bowyer, who was then the owner, and he called the garden "one of the most delicious in England." The high walls at the W. end of the

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village enclose the gardens of Denham Place (1667), but it can be well seen from the road to Rickmansworth. It was once the home of the Peckhams, and is a striking example of the domestic architecture of its age. It contains some fine tapestry. $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. N.E. is the Savoy, a house (14th to 16th century) with remains of 16th-century mural paintings, and which is important as a specimen of domestic architecture. Hill House in the village is a small but good example of a late 17th-century residence.

Denham, hamlet of Quainton. The mansion of the ancient lords of Quainton and the Winwoods stood here; fragments only remain.

Dinton (Haddenham, G.W. & G.C.R., $3\frac{1}{4}$ m.; Aylesbury, $4\frac{1}{4}$ m.) lies to S. of the main road from Aylesbury to Thame; it is reached through a picturesque avenue of chestnuts. It is a charming village shaded by elms, through which the distant Chilterns can be seen to the S. across the meadows. The church (key at Vicarage), the gabled Manor House (16th century), which touches the graveyard on the W., the half-timbered house, through an archway of which the passer-by reaches the lower part of the village, make a unique picture. The church, as a building, shows important signs of each of the periods of English mediæval architecture. The S. doorway is the most remarkable piece of N. work in the county, is imaginative in conception, and rich in execution, while it has something of barbaric rudeness in its treatment. The chief points to note are: three courses of billet on the hoodmould, the outer jambs, the bold raised and recessed zigzag on the next or inner order, a bearded monster with beaded scroll on the abacus: next the guilloche pattern round the tympanum formed by three interlacing beaded scrolls, and in the centre of the tympanum, a tree, and on either side an animal with paws, head



DINTON HALL AND CHURCH



DINTON

and a shaggy mane of a lion, and body without hind legs, gradually tapering off to the tail. Each animal is in the act of biting the fruit off from the tree. Below, on the main face, is an inscription in large capital letters, and below, on upper chamfered edge of the lintel, another inscription.

On the lintel is the combat between St Michael and Satan. An immense dragon with terrible jaws and large extended tongue is advancing from the W. towards a small winged figure in the E. corner, who holds a cross, which he is about to thrust down the throat of the serpent. The chancel is E.E., the E. window, with its three lights widely separated, or, more strictly speaking, the three E. windows, being the most remarkable. The nave arches and piers are not specially noticeable, but windows, both Dec. and P., take us to the end of the mediæval period. The font (Dec.) is cup-shaped, fluted, round the top is geometrical ornament. The tower has a turret at the S.E. angle and a very good E.E. west doorway.

On the floor of the S. aisle in the S.W. corner are brasses to John Compton (1424), and his wife, beautifully worked. More to the N. is the effigy of William Lee and his wife, headless (1486). E. of these are Francis Lee (1558), in a gown very finely engraved, and his wife, and their seven sons and four daughters lie at feet of John Compton.

To the N. and level with W. Lee are Simon Mayne (1617) and his wife, below are their two children. Close to S. wall are

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Thos. Greenway in armour (1538), and his wife, headless, and E. of them, Richard Greenway and his wife, Joan (1551).

To N.E. of the village, on the Aylesbury road, is a ruin called The Castle: it consisted of a tower and two side towers built in 1769, and was evidently a mere fancy of the owner.

In the 17th century Dinton belonged to the Mayne family, one of whom, Simon, was one of the regicides; he died in the Tower, but his body is buried in Dinton church. Members of this family held the manor and resided at the Hall, till 1727, when it was sold to John Vanhattem. It now belongs to his heirs, the Goodalls.

Ditton Park, see Datchet.

Doddershall is a hamlet (originally Dodershulle), but is remarkable for its fine old Manor House (Quainton, 1 m.), portions of which probably date from the 14th century, but the S. front was built in 1689 and alterations were made about 1790. The hall, the library, and the "brown hall" contain much old oak carving of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries. The estate came into the possession of Mr Sergeant Pigott in 1503 and still remains in his family.

Dorney (Taplow, 2 m.; Eton, 2 m.) is a village quite in the Thames Valley. The church has a brick tower, P., erected c. 1530, but is otherwise uninteresting. It contains, however, a N. font and a fine Jacobean monument to Sir W. Gerrard (1607), the central part of which consists of two nearly life-sized effigies. Dorney Court, E. of church, is a fine example of early 16th-century architecture. The great hall, with screens and dais, is remarkable.

Dorton (Wotton, G.W. & G.C. R. & Brill Branch Met. R., 1¼ m.) is very suggestive of the past. The Manor House, a large white house, interesting as an

DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP

example of Jacobean domestic architecture, was built about 1626 and partly altered in 1784; at the end of the lawn, quite shaded by closely surrounding trees, is the small church, these are grouped near a farm at W. end of the little village. Thus we get a kind of view of an old rural community. The church is reached by a path on left from the footway from the village, which continues through the fields and makes a pleasant walk up the hillside to Brill. The church has no architectural interest, but, with its dovecot-like W. tower (1630), porch, and S. aisle, and the weather-beaten roof, lingers in the memory longer than many more important buildings.

Drayton Beauchamp (Wendover, Metropolitan Railway, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Tring, London & North-Western, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.)—in Domesday, Draitone—is quite a small village at the junction of some spurs of the Chilterns with the vale of Aylesbury. The church stands a little to the S.E. of the village. The main parts of the building are Dec., but the windows have been replaced at a later period and are P.: the E. window with a square head having five cinquefoil lights, is filled with interesting 15th-century glass depicting eight of the twelve apostles—the remaining four who were missing have now been judiciously replaced in modern glass. Note (1) a N. font in nave; (2) an immense monument on N. wall of chancel to William Lord Cheyne, Viscount Newhaven (died 1728), representing a man in civil dress and a lady—a striking example of 18th-century

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sculpture; (3) two large and important brasses within the communion rails to (a) Thos. Cheyne, Esq., shield-bearer to Edward III. (1368); (b) William Cheyne (1375), both in armour; (c) in the chancel floor the effigy of a headless priest, Hen. Fazakerley (1531).

Drayton Beauchamp has a further interest from the fact that in 1584-85 Hooker (1553-1600) was rector here. His residence was so short that he can scarcely be associated markedly with the place, but his stay has been emphasised by the description given in Walton's *Life* of a visit paid to him by his pupils, George Cranmer and Edwin Sandys, son of the Archbishop of York, who found the future author of *Ecclesiastical Polity* (1584) herding sheep in the fields near the rectory, not after all so unusual or disagreeable an occupation for a country clergyman in the 16th century, and not different to the horticultural occupations of the parsons of our own time. The result of this visit was the transfer of Hooker to the Mastership of the Temple.

It was from the Beauchamps, who held part of the manor of Drayton in the 13th century, that we get the double name Drayton Beauchamp, although that family was only in possession for five generations.

Drayton Parslow (Swanbourne, 3 m.), which takes its second name from the family of Passelaw, who were lords of the manor for several generations from the time of Henry I., is a modern village of red-brick cottages, hardly any old buildings being

DRAYTON PARSLOW—DROPMORE

left, which has grown up round the church (o). The S. porch is E.E., and there is a P. East window, the rest of the church, W. tower and windows, is Dec. Note fragments of old glass in the windows. The font D., though the heraldic work is rather rude and now worn, is interesting, a succession of recesses with crocket and finials. Near the font is a slab in which have once been the effigies in brass of a man and woman—there still remain below these vacant spaces two groups—three sons and eleven daughters, much worn, however, and the date 1535, and the name of the family Blackenoll.

Dropmore ($3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Taplow Station) may be approached either by the Taplow entrance or by the pretty lodge close to Littleworth Common. One can pass through the main drive between these two points at any time, but the gardens and private grounds can be visited on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 to 5 o'clock. Even from the main drive many coniferous trees may be seen, and these specimens of conifers are the glory of Dropmore. They were planted by William Wyndham, Lord Grenville (1759-1834), after he purchased the property in 1792, which was then little better than waste land. It now contains some of the finest coniferous trees in England, and in early summer is gorgeous with the brilliant flowers of rhododendrons and azaleas. Among the most remarkable trees is the cedar of Lebanon on the lawn planted in 1794. The planting was done by Frost, the head gardener, who, years after, would point out to visitors splendid trees which, as he gravely said,

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he had carried in his waistcoat pocket, and would tell of visits by George III. Dropmore can never be dissociated from its first owner, Lord Grenville, who was Pitt's Foreign Secretary from 1791-1801, and the head of the short-lived Ministry known as "All the Talents," containing as it did both Fox and Addington, which he formed on the death of Pitt in 1806. Dropmore was Lord Grenville's home for many years, and he died here in 1834.

Dunton (Winslow, $4\frac{3}{4}$ m.) has no village—the church, parsonage, an old Manor House, and a farm and one or two cottages on a side road among extensive pastures form the centre of the parish. The church is very small, and gives a good idea of the state of the Bucks churches a century ago, with high pews and white-washed ceilings and oak beams disappearing above it. A piscina, with a single round moulding, is noticeable in the N. wall. A doorway with zigzag ornament, now blocked up, tells of the antiquity of the church. On the floor of nave near the chancel are two effigies in brass, much worn, the figures of a man and woman with scrolls from their mouths (1420), and under the chancel arch is the effigy of Collys, wife of Richard (1510), with one child. Part of the inscription is lost.

Edgecote ($1\frac{3}{4}$ m. Calvert Station, Great Central) is a small village with thatched cottages sprinkled among damp meadows round a little hill, on the summit of which stands the church, with a fine

DUNTON—EDLESBOROUGH

view over a sea of grass, and with Brill Hill standing up to the W. This church is small, with a nave, chancel and tower at W. end; it was built in the 14th and 15th centuries. Note font, and S. door, P.

Edlesborough (Leighton Buzzard, 5 m.; Tring Station, 6 m.)—Domesday, Edinberge—was at one time a place of more importance than to-day. The easternmost of the villages which fringe the northern verge of the Chilterns from here to Princes Risborough, it lies on a high bare slope. The village itself has nothing of interest except one or two old cottages and farm buildings. The church is a conspicuous object for a long distance. It stands on a high, probably artificial, mound. The W. tower is Dec., and on the W. front is a narrow single light window. The E. window is Dec., as are several of the S. windows, but there are others in the P. style. Note especially one of five lights on the N. side. The font is octagonal and on the bowl has four leaved ornaments in the panels. But the great attraction of Edlesborough church is the wood carving. The pulpit is unique in the county and of singular beauty, it is 15th-century work—minute pinnacles and finials being the most striking features, but on examination various forms of foliage will be seen. The sounding-board has a panelled ceiling, and above rises in a cone shape, completely covered with the same kind of ornament, till it terminates in a single finial. The work is more remarkable because the pulpit and

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sounding-board are small, and thus the whole work is strikingly delicate, refined and elaborate. Edlesborough is also fortunate in the possession of a fine P. rood screen, together with carved stalls, the whole forming the best example in the county, of the appearance, in this respect, of a mediæval church. In the floor of N. aisle, near the N. transept, are two brasses in good condition, John Rufford and his three wives (1540). On the N. wall of N. transept the effigies of Henry Brugis and his wife (1592), the man in a fur gown. On the E. wall are some remarkable corbels—a dragon, etc.

Ellesborough (Wendover, Metropolitan Railway, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Kimble, Great Western Railway, 1 m.) is a picturesque and delightful place. The church (o) stands conspicuously on one of the northern spurs of the Chilterns, almost in the plain, Cymbeline's Mount overtops it to the S., and then the steep slopes of the Chilterns close this admirable view. The church is of flint, and was restored in 1854, the W. tower in 1870. The fine monument to Bridget (died 1638), daughter and heiress of William Hawtrey of Chequers Court, and wife of Sir H. Croke, on S. wall, should not be overlooked, and the brass, also on S. wall, to Thomas Hawtrey (1544) and his wife, though it is not certain that the figures are those referred to in the inscription.

The cottages (17th century) at a little distance, by the path and the side of the hill, are interesting.

Emberton (Olney Station, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Newport Pagnell Station, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a village of some size

ELLESBOROUGH—ETON COLLEGE

on the rising ground S. of the valley of the Ouse, almost opposite Olney, the conspicuous spire of whose church is seen through the trees on the other side of the intervening meadows. In the centre of the village is a modern square clock tower (1845). The church is on high ground to S.W. of the village, with nave, aisles, chancel, clerestory and porches. The tower at W. end should be observed, also the depth of the lower windows, which are of earlier date than the upper; also the detail of the cornice of the chancel with its grotesque heads. The chancel windows of three lights contain some of the best Dec. work in the county, the delicate tracery in the heads of the side windows being very agreeable, more attractive than the five-light E. window, good as it is. The rare carving on N. wall of chancel should not be overlooked. The nave is rather too wide for the length, but taken as a whole Emberton is a fine church. It contains on N. wall of chancel a well-preserved brass—John Mordon, Rector (1410).

Eton College (Windsor Station, $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Slough Station, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m.).

Approaching from Slough one notes at the "Prince of Wales" Inn, on the right of the Slough road, about a mile from the station, a branch road which leads to Salt Hill ($\frac{1}{2}$ m.), the scene of the old Eton masquerade of "Montem." There has been no ceremony on the famous

mound since 1844, after which year that royal and time-honoured, but somewhat disorderly, festival was abolished by Provost Hodgson. Originally part of a religious or initiatory rite, the procession had become a gorgeous fancy-dress pageant, and the "Salt-bearers," who held up travellers on the surrounding turnpikes and claimed money ("Salt") used to collect latterly about £1000 for the expenses of the Captain of the School at Cambridge. The land on the left hand (S.) has been lately bought by the College, and contrasts unfavourably with the more famous field nearer Eton, which is completely surrounded by elms, and forms in consequence the most beautiful, but to cricketers not the most satisfactory, of English cricket-grounds. A very picturesque view of the soft reds and greys of the College buildings is gained from the second of the two little bridges over which the road passes; and, beyond this brook ("Jordan") the road runs between the historic "wall" (S.)—on the other side of which the annual struggle between the Collegers and Oppidans in the most primitive of all football-games takes place—and the "Field" (N.) with its background of Fives Courts. A few old red-brick houses on the left, one labelled "Weston's" to commemorate where Bishop Weston lived as "Usher" and Fellow from 1693-1709, the "New Schools" (1863) on the right (N.), and we are in the heart of Eton. Every building within sight is occupied by the College; and a few paces to the left bring us through the arch into the "Schoolyard," where, on the right hand, stands the chapel.



ETON COLLEGE

Only a sketch of the history of this most famous school can be attempted here. Built within touch of his favourite castle of Windsor by the pious King, Henry VI., as "the first pledge of his devotion to God," on the lines of Waynflete's College at Winchester, and, like its model, closely bound to a College at the University, "The King's College of our Lady of Eton beside Windsor," as it is styled in the Royal Charter of Foundation (1440), has come, in spite of early attempts at suppression, to hold the foremost position among public schools. As originally planned, the royal College embraced a seminary for secular priests, and, as adjuncts to this, a school for boys and an almshouse (like that at the Charterhouse) for paupers ; but the school soon usurped the name and revenues of the older triple institution. Much ecclesiastical circumstance was thrown round the twin Colleges at Eton and Cambridge by three Papal Bulls, which the King obtained from Eugenius IV., conferring special privileges on Eton Church. Seventy poor scholars formed the nucleus of the school, six of whom were brought from Winchester by Waynflete, Master of Winchester and afterwards Provost of Eton. The "King's Scholars" still number seventy ; but about them there now cluster some thousand "Oppidans," for a small number of whom the Founder made provision.

For many years after the laying of the first stone of the new "chapel," early in 1441, the dismantled old parish church of Eton nestled under the buttresses of its stately successor, and the old churchyard in which it stood—part of the present

"Schoolyard"—was used for burials even in the 16th century. The "chapel," in fact, continued to be the parish church until late in the 19th century. In 1500 the College buildings consisted of the "chapel" and hall, the old kitchen, and the greater part of the N. and E. sides of the cloisters; the Collegers being probably housed and taught on the S. side of the present "Schoolyard." The Oppidans, if there were any, lodged in the town; and two instructors, a "Master" and "Usher," controlled the education. Additions were soon made to the buildings. The present "Long Chamber," which used to run the whole length of the S. side of the "Schoolyard," and at one time provided sleeping accommodation for all the Collegers and the "Lower School" beneath it, were erected in 1500-05. Twelve years later the E. side of the "Schoolyard," containing a room intended for a library and the present Provost's Lodge, was completed; but the tower did not assume its present picturesque appearance till 1765, when the clock was moved from one of the chapel buttresses to its present position and the bell turret added.

For nearly two centuries building remained at a standstill, though the school was growing in numbers. The turmoil of the Civil Wars had little effect on the College, owing to the scrupulous fidelity of the Fellows to whichever party was in power. They contributed ship money to Charles I. with the same zeal with which they saw John Rous, the Provost, made Speaker in 1653, and finally elected to the Upper

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House. When the shock of the Restoration, which tumbled the Provost, the schoolmaster, and most of the Fellows from their seats, had subsided, the increasing numbers of the Oppidans rendered additional accommodation necessary.

The W. side of the "Schoolyard" which, before the memorable year in which the boys were flogged for not smoking to keep off the plague and Pepys enjoyed the Eton beer, had stood open to the main road, was, about 1670, completed by the ill-featured loyalist, Provost Allestree. This building, however, was faultily built, and was demolished a few years later to make room for the present erection (1694), which consists of two or three small rooms fronted by a colonnade, and on the higher floor the long "Upper School." Some provision was thus made for the 200 boys which the school then numbered.

In this condition, with the exception of the unfortunate demolition in 1730 of the S. cloisters to make room for a new library, and the important addition of an attic storey to the N. and E. sides of the cloisters thirty years later, the College buildings remained until the middle of the 19th century. The numbers of the school rose rapidly during the eighteenth century, and Eton could boast the education of so distinguished a group of statesmen as Godolphin, Robert Walpole, Newcastle, Grenville, North, Fox and Chatham, and among men of distinction in other fields, of Horace Walpole and George Selwyn, Fielding, Gray and Porson, with warriors such as Howe,

Wellesley and Wellington—a microcosm of all the brilliance of the century in which the empire was being built. The genius of her sons cannot perhaps be ascribed entirely to their school training, although the well-known eulogy of the playing-fields which is ascribed to Wellington is not without authority. Not only were the masters as a body little capable of inspiring enthusiasm for classics or character, but their numbers were ridiculously meagre; and the sports with which the boys filled their spare time were often degrading. The condition of “Long Chamber” was scandalous; and the schoolrooms, which were sufficient for the 200 boys of 1680, were not thought too few or too confined for the 800 of Hawtrey’s time (1844). Yet some of Eton’s not least distinguished sons were educated under the mild rule of Goodall, and the wholesome discipline of Keate in the first half of last century. Shelley was, as might be expected, unhappy at Eton; but Gladstone never lost his love for his “glorious school.” The memory of Keate, that great headmaster without a mention of whom no sketch of Eton can have any pretence to completeness, is still green, though he retired seventy years ago. Anecdotes of his grotesque figure and ferocious temper are legion; but the classical portrait of him occurs in his pupil’s *Eothen*.

The period of reform began with Dr Hawtrey in 1834. The “New Buildings,” containing extra rooms for the collegers, were built in 1846; the “New Schools,” with their Russian gun, by

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1863 ; and large additions have been made in the last twenty years, such as the "Lower Chapel" and the "Queen's Schools" in Keate's Lane, the turning opposite the chapel. Only in flood time does the accommodation now prove insufficient for the 1000 boys.

Much of the history of Eton lies written in her buildings, and the chapel is its best epitome. The structure covers every century from the 15th to the 20th. The founder's scheme projected a stately fane as broad as King's Chapel, Cambridge, and some thirty feet longer—as large, perhaps, as many English Cathedrals, and unique in the simple grandeur of its design. But Henry's pious designs were rudely upset by Edward IV.'s successes, and the church remained half completed (by 1475), a choir without a nave. The "ante-chapel" was added 1479-1482, as the only possible substitute for the visionary nave, sufficient funds not being forthcoming after the founder's eclipse. The niches behind Provost Goodall's statue are all that remain of the once numerous pre-Reformation altars. The screen was built in 1882, in memory of Etonians who fell in the Zulu, Afghan and first Boer wars ; the resplendent organ is equally modern. After Waynflete's design the interior of the nave was originally fitted with low, uncanopied stalls, leaving space below the string courses of the windows for Flemish frescoes of saints and legendary heroines. These early paintings were whitewashed by the College barber in 1561 ; and at the same time the high altar was destroyed. In 1700 they were panelled over by Provost

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Godolphin, but were re-discovered in a damaged condition in 1847, and two years later, in spite of the Prince Consort's exertions, they were re-concealed by the present canopied stalls. The modern decoration of the chapel is on the whole unhappy. The fine lectern, which dates at least from 1487, and the plain tomb of Sir Henry Saville, Provost 1596-1622, on the S. wall of the sacrarium are interesting, the latter from its contrast to the elaborate monument of his successor, Thomas Moravius (Murray), which faces it. Lupton's chapel, on the N. side of the chapel, is decorated with the rebus (the letters L U P on a tun) of the Provost (1504-1535), in whose honour it was built. On the W. wall of this chapel are the names of Etonians who fell in the South African War. Note the painting of Sir Galahad by G. F. Watts, and tapestry representing the Adoration of the Magi, designed by Burne-Jones.

Of the many brass effigies there now remain but those commemorating—

- (1) Thomas Barker, Vice-Provost, 1489, N. of organ screen.
- (2) Henry Bost, Provost, 1503, E. wall of Lupton Chapel.
- (3) Richard Arden, Fellow, 1509, N. of organ screen.
- (4) Richard, Lord Grey De Wilton, 1521, S. of organ screen.
- (5) William Bontrod, Minor Canon of Windsor, 1522, S. of organ screen.
- (6) Walter Smith, Fellow, 1525, N. of organ screen.
- (7) Female effigy (probably wife of Henry Smith), 1528, S. of organ screen

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- (8) William Horman, Vice-Provost, 1525, S. of organ screen.
- (9) Roger Lupton, Provost (died 1540), in floor of Lupton Chapel.
- (10) Thomas Edgecomb, Vice-Provost, 1545, N. of organ screen.
- (11) Elizabeth, wife of Robert Stokes, 1560 (inscription, a palimpsest), S. of organ screen.
- (12) Thomas Allen, Fellow, 1636, S. of organ screen.

For an exhaustive account of existing and lost Eton brasses, see *Oxford Journal of Monumental Brasses*, Vol. II., No. 2, and Vol. II., No. 1. by T. Harwood.

The modern wooden roof presents a variety of styles, and the question of a stone substitute has often been mooted; but expert opinion has decided that the buttresses, massive as they are, would not be capable of standing the additional strain. Here it may be noted that the Eton Fives Court owes its peculiar "pepper-box" to the accidental contiguity of the end of the stone balustrade at the N. door to the two adjoining buttresses, and that, till 1848, Fives was only played at Eton between the buttresses on the N. side of the chapel.

Along the W. side of the schoolyard runs "Upper School," the largest and most famous, but not the oldest, of the class-rooms. At first sight it seems cold and bare; but the thousands of names carved on its panels during the two centuries of its life clothe it with an undying interest. Until 1863, "Upper School," and the old "Library" at its northern end, with two

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

meagre kennels on the ground floor, a still more meagre cock-loft in the N.W. tower and the old "Lower School," were the only class-rooms provided for the school, although the numbers had more than doubled in the preceding 170 years. Now "Upper School" is only used on occasions when the greater part of the school has to be collected in one room, or for "Speeches" during the Christmas and Easter "halves" and on the great festival of King George III.'s birthday, the 4th of June. The old "Library," now used as a class-room for Sixth Form, and, as the block bears witness, for corporal punishments, is also wainscoted with names, and the solid staircase leading down to the schoolyard carries on the tale.

About half-way along the N. side of the schoolyard there is an opening, "Fourth-Form Passage," leading to "Weston's Yard," and within it a door on the left. This door leads to the domain of the lower master, "Lower School," built in the first years of Henry VIII. The incongruous double row of Jacobean pillars which adorn it were set up by Provost Sir Henry Wotton about 1630, to support the floor of "Long Chamber." They were hung, according to Isaak Walton, at Wotton's expense with pictures of the most famous orators and historians of Greece and Italy. Wotton was contemporary as a Fellow with the ever-memorable John Hales, who lies buried in the churchyard under a square sarcophagus sadly worn by time. The staircase on the right of "Fourth-Form Passage" leads up to "Long Chamber," now divided into rooms and cubicles or "stalls." Within the memory of men now living it was

ETON COLLEGE

open from end to end, and contained fifty beds, and by the side of each the tall lead-coloured desk which held all the worldly goods of the collegier.

East of the schoolyard, beyond Lupton's Tower, lie the cloisters. The three sides, which contain the Provost's Lodge with its gallery of eminent Etonians, the (Fellows') Library and the Headmaster's house, are private. On the S. side stands the Hall (1448-1458), one of the earliest of the College buildings, and in the main unaltered since its erection. The fireplaces are part of the original structure, and early 16th-century paneling runs round the walls. The mediæval character of the building is reflected in the Latin grace which is still chanted before meals. Some alterations have been made recently, and the high-pitched roof and Perpendicular W. window, as well as the screen behind the high table, are barely fifty years old. Downstairs is the old kitchen with its elaborate 18th-century spit, where a relic of the ruder habits of earlier days can be seen in one of the two-sided platters formerly used in Hall.

The buildings which stand apart from the schoolyard and cloisters do not claim a long visit, with the exception of the School Hall in "Cannon Yard." This was erected in memory of old boys who fell in the war in South Africa. The School Library is now in an adjoining building.

Most visitors will have seen enough of Eton in the chapel and the buildings which surround it. Those, however, who desire to extend their

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survey can enter the playing fields, and take the walk through them towards Datchet, or in the reverse direction follow Common Lane to the school drill hall (right hand). Keate's Lane diverges into Eton Wick Road on the right, in which are the old Fives Courts (L.), and to South Meadow Lane on the left, where in order on the right are laboratory, concert-room and science school, on the left, "Lower Chapel," a plain but well-proportioned structure, built for the four hundred lower boys, from Blomfield's designs in 1891, and music room. The houses of the masters are chiefly grouped round Keate's Lane.

Eythorpe (Domesday, Edrop), a hamlet in the parish of Waddesdon, possessed a fine Manor House, the home of the Dynhams, Dormers and Stanhopes, who successively owned the manor. It was pulled down in 1812, by the then Earl of Chesterfield. To it was attached a chapel, in which the founder, Roger Dynham, was buried after being removed from Waddesdon church. This chapel was pulled down in 1738, and all traces of Sir Roger Dynham's burying place were lost until a few years ago, when a stone coffin containing his remains was found, and on it a slab with the effigy in brass, which is now in Waddesdon church (*see*). At Eythorpe are the fine house and beautiful gardens of Miss Rothschild.

Farnham Royal (Slough, 3 m.) is a prosperous village on the upper slopes of the Thames Valley. After the Conquest the manor was given to Bertrand de Verdon on the condition of providing a glove and putting it on the king's right



KEATE'S LANE, ETON



EYTHORPE—FAWLEY

hand at the coronation, and supporting his right arm, while the royal sceptre was in his hand, and from this tenure by Grand Serjeantry, Farnham obviously received the epithet of "Royal." The church is at the S. end of the principal street. It has been so much restored that there is little or nothing left of the original building. A small window on the N. side of the chancel, and a piscina on the S. side, E.E., appear to be the chief remains. The old font, with octagonal stem and bowl, is ornamented with panels, in which are quatrefoils enclosing a four-leaved flower. A brass inscription of some interest is on E. wall of S. aisle—both aisles and pillars are modern—commemorating Eustace Mascoll, clerk of the works to Cardinal Wolsey (at Christ Church, Oxford), and "Pistell Reader" in Windsor Castle (d. 1564).

The ceiling of the chancel is old.

Fawley (Henley, Oxon, 3 m.)—Domesday, *Falelei*.—This village is in the high country above the Thames Valley. The church is quite unimportant. None of its older portions are left except the tower, but the monument to Sir James and Lady Whitelocke (1632), with recumbent effigies, is a noticeable example of Jacobean sculpture; nor should the carving of pulpit, etc., by Gibbons be overlooked.

Fawley Court on the S. of the parish close to the Thames.—the large red house, a familiar object to those who have been to Henley Regatta—is architecturally important, for it was built on the site of the Manor House in 1684 after Wren's designs. During the Civil

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War the Manor House was the property of Bulstrode Whitelocke (1605-1675), and in 1642 was occupied by Prince Rupert's troops, who did so much damage that the house was never again occupied. It was rebuilt by Bulstrode Whitelocke's son, and sold by him in 1688.

Fenny Stratford (Bletchley, 1 m.).—A small and uninteresting market town, with a long main street in which are a few old houses. Around and at the N. end of this some modern houses have formed a small town. The church, at N. end in red brick in debased Gothic style, was built in 1730, and here Browne Willis, the antiquary, was buried in 1760. At the S. end of the town, Roman remains have been found, indicating the existence of a Romano-British village.

Fingest ($7\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. Henley, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.W. Marlow) is a small village lying, with Turville half a mile away, at the head of the Hambleton Valley sheltered by the beech-wooded Chilterns. The church has a large square Norman tower at W. end with double pack-saddle roof (13th century). It is 60 feet high, and is divided into three stages; good double windows on each side of upper stage, the detail in each varying; the lowest stage has an E.E. W. window, the details of which are very perfect. The narrow nave is divided from the tower by a fine semi-circular arch. In the S. wall are two Dec. windows, one original, one modern; in the N. wall a small window and archway, blocked, with an E.E. doorway on the exterior. The chancel was restored in 1849; the original walls remain. The E. window is late Dec.; in the

FENNY STRATFORD—FULMER

N. wall are two single-light E.E. windows. The chancel arch has unfortunately been replaced by wooden screenwork. The font has an early P. bowl, but the base is modern. The Bishops of Lincoln held the Manor of Fingest in the 12th century, and fragments of the ruins of their palace are still to be seen N. of churchyard.

Fleet Marston (Aylesbury, $3\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is a parish without a village—a farmhouse or two and some cottages with a small church standing alone in a large field on a hill top. Marston is a common name in Bucks—and naturally, for it tells us of the marshy ground on which a hamlet was placed. This Marston has a watercourse running by it, indeed several, and so it became Marston of the brook or fleet to distinguish it from the not distant North Marston. The church is small and ancient. The circular font (probably 13th century) is significant of its age, the E. window is a single trefoil light, the chancel has Dec. windows, and the nave P. windows.

Foscott (Buckingham, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a very small parish and village (on the edge of the Ouse valley). The church is quite small and ancient. Of the first edifice there still remains the S. doorway, N.

The old Manor House was rebuilt in 1639, and restored in 1868.

Fulmer (Gerrard's Cross Station, 2 m.) lies nestled in a hollow between Stoke and Gerrard's Cross Commons. Its little church was entirely rebuilt in 1610 by Sir Marmaduke Dayrell, to whose memory, and that of Dame Anne, his wife, the fine monument in the chancel

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

was erected in 1631. He was lord of the manor of Fulmer, servant to Queen Elizabeth and cofferer to King James I. and Charles I.

Gawcott (Buckingham, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a hamlet with a modern church, and is only interesting as having been the birthplace of Sir Gilbert Scott (1811-1878), the architect. His father was the first perpetual curate of Gawcott, and Scott in his *Recollections* gives some sketches of his native village and its people, which are interesting as pictures of rural life in this county at the beginning of the last century. See also Introduction, p. 34.

Gayhurst (Newport Pagnell, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a parish without a village. Gayhurst House and church are close together, on rising ground S. side of the Ouse Valley, left hand of main road from Newport Pagnell to Northampton. The church is a wretched building, showing much 18th-century rubbish, and was built in 1728. It contains a realistic monument by Roubiliac of Sir Nathan Wright (1654-1721), Lord Keeper, a successful but not remarkable lawyer, whose son, George Wright, purchased the estate of Gayhurst in 1704. The figures are life size, the Lord Keeper in his robes. A more interesting family which is considerably connected with Gayhurst was that of the Digbys. Sir Everard Digby, by marriage with Mary Moulso, became its possessor in 1596. Both he and his son are historical characters, the one unfortunate, the other fortunate. For further details see the Introduction, p. 47. Gayhurst House is the finest example of 16th-century domestic architecture in North Bucks. The oldest

portion was probably built about 1500. Nearly at the end of the century William Mulso, the owner at the time, built a new house, and after the fashion of the age it was planned in the form of an **E** in honour of the Queen, the earlier part forming the S. or lower wing and the new porch forming the centre limb.

In 1725 George Wright, of whom mention has already been made, filled up the space at the back of the **E** by adding a dining-room and a ball-room above, and a grand staircase. Thus the garden front illustrates the architecture of the 18th, as the main front does that of the 16th, century. In the garden is a sundial engraved with the date, 1670, and the motto of the Digbys, "Nul que une," and near the front of the house a monumental pedestal, with some lines "To the Memory of a Beautifully Mottled Peacock," following a quaint fashion of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Gerrard's Cross (G.W. & G.C. Railway) is a pleasant common and ecclesiastical parish, which forms a useful centre for excursions into the surrounding country through Bulstrode Park, to Chalfont St Peter—to Fulmer and Stoke. A modern district church has been built at the S.W. side of the common, upon which at various points seven roads converge.

Grandborough is a poor village ($1\frac{3}{4}$ m. from station) among large pastures. The church stands on high ground at S.E. of the village, and is marked like so many churches in this immediate district by the P. details which have been added

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

at a late date. The E. window is the best; the doorway on the N. side of chancel has the date 1589 on it. Note the small alabaster panel in the chancel, and the 15th-century chrismatory.

Grendon Underwood (Akeman Street, G.W. & G.C.R., 2½ m.) was in old records Grendon under Bernwode, a name which describes its position in the low-lying meadows, not far from the higher ground to the W., in which began Bernwood Forest. A local couplet says of it—

“Grenden Underwode
The dirtiest town that ever stode,”

—as hunting men with the Bicester Hounds have before now found it—yet in summer time it is a pleasant straggling village among the green of luxuriant elms and hedgerows. The church (o) is at the W. end of the village. It has only a nave, chancel and W. tower, P., with a turret, and an E.E. doorway on S. side. There is a noticeable 18th-century monument in the chancel to John Pigott of Doddershall (died 1751) by Scheemaker. On right of, and a few yards off, the road to Aylesbury, half way down the village, is a portion of an old house, once the Ship Inn, and now called Shakespeare's house. It is unquestionably an interesting bit of domestic architecture, probably of the 16th century, but tradition has it that Shakespeare used to stay here on his way to and from London, and here wrote *Much Ado about Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The story is chiefly based on a statement of Aubrey, the antiquarian, who lived within twenty-six years of Shakespeare's death. He says, “The humours of . . . the constable in *A Midsummer*

GRIM'S DYKE

Night's Dream he happened to take at Grendon in Bucks. I think it was a midsummer night that he happened to lye there, which was on the road from Stratford to London." It is obvious that one may build on this statement whatever super-structure imagination may suggest.

Just at the end of the parish, on the main road from Aylesbury to Bicester, on N. side, is an old inn—The Crooked Billet—with a sign-board on which the old inscription has been repeated—

MARY HUFF

She sells good beer,

And that's enough.

N.B. A mistake here.

She sells spirits as well as beer.

Grim's Dyke, or ditch of Grim, is an ancient earthwork about the origin and object of which nothing definite is known. In Buckinghamshire it is met at Bradenham, not far from High Wycombe, whence it extends through woods to Lacey Green, bounds the parish of Prince's Risborough, runs through Hampden Park towards Great Missenden, passes King's Ash in the parish of Wendover, traverses woods near St Leonards over Wigginton Common to Berkhamstead in Herts. This work, extending over a considerable space, roughly speaking from E. to W. has often been supposed to be of British origin, but modern antiquarians are now agreed that the date of the work cannot be rightly asserted. It has sometimes been regarded as a defence constructed by the Romans. We know that they

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

made somewhat similar earthworks in the north—Hadrian's Wall, from the Solway to the mouth of the Tyne, and that of Lollius Urbicus between the Forth and Clyde, and the wall of Antoninus. The "limes imperii," which extended from the Rhine to the Danube, and which in one part ran along the summit of the Taunus Range in Germany, is not unlike Grim's Dyke.

Some time after the expeditions of Aulus Plautius, in A.D. 43, it was possibly considered advisable to construct a fortification at some distance from the summit of the Chiltern range below the thickest belt of forest, and where the country became less wooded and more fertile. But it is perhaps more likely that in this earthwork we have a relic of the Saxon age—a relic of the warfare between the several kingdoms—and that it may remind us, like Offa's Dyke in the west, of the contest for supremacy among our Saxon ancestors. For where could the advance of the men of Mercia be better resisted than on the long line of the Chiltern Hills. On the other hand, it has been suggested that this Dyke is not a fortification at all, since it does not run along the edge of the hills; and in ancient times the nearer to the escarpment of a hill the fortifications were made, the stronger they became. Therefore it is said it was no more than a territorial boundary of the Saxons. In this state of doubt this interesting archæological question must therefore be left. Nor of the word Grim has a satisfactory explanation been given. It may, it is said, be no more than the Saxon word "witch," thus suggesting that before the Conquest this

GRIM'S DYKE—HADDENHAM

work was considered to be of supernatural origin.

It should be borne in mind that there are several similar, but less important, works in the south of England, each of which is called Grim's Dyke.

Dr Guest (*Origines Celticae*, II., 149) assumes the name to mean a boundary ditch, but this has been recently shown to be quite illusory. Stevenson (*Eng. Hist. Rev.*, vol. xvii., p. 629) is inclined to regard Grim as a personal name. Grim was a common name among the Danes, hence Grimsby. Again, if "Woden was also known among the Pagan English as Grim, as he was among the Norsemen, we might conclude that Grimes-dīc was merely the equivalent of Wodnes-dīc."

Grove (Leighton Buzzard, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a parish with a population of only 19. It has a small and unimportant church, which contains an old font.

Haddenham (G.C. Railway) is a large and important village nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile long. The lower part is called Church End, the upper part is dignified by the name of Townend. Except its size there is nothing specially noticeable in Haddenham. The houses are nearly all built of what is called mud or wichert, a species of white clay, which dries into hard blocks and makes good walls. The church is a striking building, facing the large green, the E.E. tower being the best specimen in the county of a tower in this style. It has a good arcade round the upper storey, and below, on W. face, is a three-light window. The chancel arch, which is an interesting piece of Transitional N., seems to be the most ancient part

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now remaining. The arches and piers are E.E., as is the chancel. There are Dec. and P. windows on each side, and a Dec. porch. The font is late N. In spite of the P. windows Haddenham church remains a fine relic of early Gothic architecture. On the S. wall of the Lady Chapel is the half effigy of a priest (c. 1420), and incorrectly placed under it an inscription to Gylls Wodbryge and Elizabeth, his wife, the effigies belonging to which are lost. On the same wall is another brass commemorating Thomas Nassh, priest, 1428.

Halton is a picturesque group of cottages in the park of Halton House, 2 m. N. of Wendover. The church (o), built in 1813, is charmingly situated, but is very ugly within and without. On the N. wall of chancel, behind hangings, is a brass effigy of Henry Bradshawe, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1553.

Halton House is a conspicuous object between the village and the Chilterns. The fine shrubberies and plantations are worthy of notice.

Hambleton (Henley, $3\frac{1}{4}$ m.; and 1 m. from Thames Hambleton Lock) is a beautiful piece of landscape, the red-roofed cottages, with dormer windows and soft-toned roofs, having a background of rich foliage and rising hill. So wooded is the parish that Lipscomb, writing in 1847, says that there were then about 1200 acres of beechwoods. It is placed quite in the hollow of the valley, and a charming view is gained on the road from Hambleton Lock. The Manor House, opposite E. end of church, is a marked feature, with its high gables rising from the ivy.

HALTON—GREAT HAMPDEN

Built about 1604, it forms to the architectural student a house to be noted. The church has been so much modernised and rebuilt—the tower in 1721—that it is of no value compared to most Bucks churches. It contains a 12th-century font and some fine early 16th-century wood panelling in the tower; also a monument, 1633, to Sir Cope Doyley and his wife, a good specimen of Jacobean work, with a curious mixture of realism and symbolism, for the family of children who kneel below their father and mother are attired in the dress of the age, and each holds a skull. Some brasses remain, remnants of a larger number. On N. wall of nave, near tower arch, is a fine brass, which Haines attributes to Sheepwash and his two wives (about 1620), the dress being that of the time of James I. On N. side of S. door are two effigies representing a man and wife, probably that of Wm. Shypwasche and his wife, Margery (about 1500). Above these are four children, and above the first-mentioned is a figure of a woman praying. On the S. wall of tower is a man in a mantle, and opposite to him a headless figure in a long cloak (c. 1600). On N. wall of tower a civilian, with lower part of effigy lost (c. 1500).

Hampden, Great (Great Missenden Station, 3¼ m.), ranks with Stoke Poges in its union of country charms and personal associations.

There is no village of Great Hampden, only some scattered houses, so that Hampden may be said to consist of the church and the house, which are separated only by a roadway, the house still looking down on the now wild avenue of beeches and Spanish chestnuts as in John Hamp-

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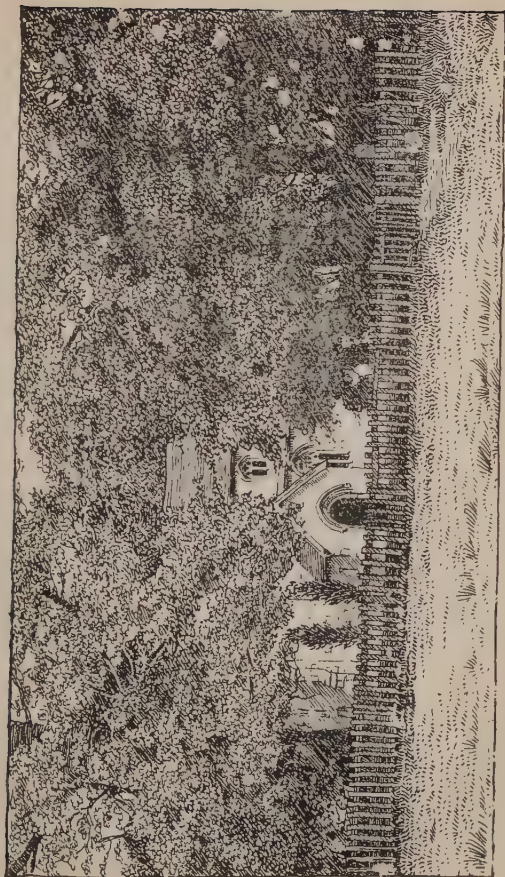
den's time, and the church still standing in the shade of the surrounding trees, under which one sees the pleasant prospect of the extending park. Both church and house are inseparably associated with the family of Hampden, and more especially with the patriot. (For John Hampden, *see* Introduction, p. 47.)

The Hampden family possessed the estates from the Conquest, when Baldwyn de Hampden was in possession, till 1754, when through female descent they passed to a cousin, the Honourable Robert Trevor, who took the name and arms of Hampden. In 1824 the Honourable George Robert Hobart, sixth Earl of Buckinghamshire, the next heir of the Hampdens, succeeded to the property, and bequeathed it on his death, in 1849, to his nephew, George Hampden Cameron.

But although the house—a large, white, low-battlemented building—stands on the elevated site (700 feet) of the old mansion of the Hampdens—this was almost entirely pulled down and rebuilt in 1754—the existing building cannot therefore in detail be associated with John Hampden, nor does it contain anything in the nature of pictures, prints or furniture which can be connected with him.

Queen Elizabeth stayed here on one of her numerous progresses, and there is a tradition that she suggested that a way should be cut through the woods, which is said to have given the present avenue the name of the Queen's Gap. Hampden is the Burnham of Black's novel of *Kilmeny*.

The church (key at thatched cottage across



HAMPDEN CHURCH

GREAT HAMPDEN

park from churchyard), which has been recently restored, is similar to most of the S. Buckinghamshire churches—of flint, with a tower, chancel and aisles, in each aisle is a hagioscope. The Dec. piers and arches have no special merit, the font is 13th century. The interest of the church lies in the plain tablet on the S. wall of the chancel, which Hampden placed to the memory of his first wife, Elizabeth Simeon, and the charming inscription which, now scarcely legible, he himself wrote. It runs—

“In her pilgrimage

The staie and comfort of her neighbours,
The love and glory of a well-ordered family,
The delight and happiness of tender parents,
But a crowne of blessings to a husband
In a wife : to all an eternal pattern of
Goodness and cause of Joy ; whilst
She was,

In her dissolution

A loss unvaluable to each, yet herself blest, and they fully recompenc'd in her translation from a tabernacle of claye and fellowship with mortalls to a Celestial Mansion and Communion with a Deity, the 20th day of August,
1634.

John Hampden, her sorrowful Husband, in perpetual memory of his conjugall love, hath erected
this Monument.”

Opposite, on N. wall, is a curious and elaborate monument erected about 1755 by Robert Hampden to the memory of John Hampden, who, though buried in the church, is without a contemporary monument. In the middle floor of the chancel are two sets of brasses, not only valuable as excellent examples of this form of monument but from the link which they form with

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

the Hampdens of a long-departed age. Nearest to the altar-rails are the brass effigies of "John Hampden, esquier (d. 1496), and Elizabeth, hys wyffe." This is the oldest Hampden monument in the church. On another slab, near the middle of the chancel, is a knight in armour, with his two wives. This is Sir John Hampden (d. 1553).

Hampden, Little (Great Missenden, 3 m.), consists of a very small church, and a few scattered farms and cottages. The church (o) is $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of the main road from Missenden to Risborough, on the W. side of a valley very characteristic of the Chiltern Hills, with its woods and light arable land. It has scarcely any architectural features of interest. Note, however, a remarkable piscina and a small figure of an ecclesiastic on the S. wall of chancel. The mural paintings brought to light in 1907 are important: there appear to be four series, the earliest is on the E. wall of the nave on a deep red ground. The figure of St Christopher is four times repeated, that to the W. of the N. doorway in the nave is an early example, and probably dates from the latter part of the reign of Henry III. (On this subject see *Records of Bucks*, vol. ix. p. 415.)

Hanslope (Castlethorpe, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—in Domesday, Hamescle—is a large village on a breezy plateau. It is close to the borders of Northamptonshire, and the country around represents the purely midland part of England rather than the wide meadows of Central Buckinghamshire. A few of the older cottages are thatched, but red bricks and blue slates are gradually ousting the less modern material. In the middle of the 19th century Hanslope contained many lace-makers. Lipscomb says 500 persons were, when he wrote, engaged in this occupation; to-day there are not more than fifty.

After the Conquest the manor was presented to a soldier from Flanders named Winewar, and later we hear of Michael de Hanslope being

LITTLE HAMPDEN—HANSLOPE

its possessor, and his daughter carried it by marriage to the Mauduit family. The name of the manor in Domesday cannot well by any ingenuity be developed into Hanslope, and it is probable that Hanslope retains the appellation of the most important of its mediæval lords.

The church, with its slender and graceful spire, is conspicuous from afar. It is one of the few churches of the county which have spires, and it is unquestionably the most admirable of the three. The spire, which is nearly all modern, rises from a western tower (15th century) supported by four flying buttresses terminated by crocketed pinnacles. The chancel arch is a fine piece of N. work, and is supported by four pillars with enriched scalloped capitals. The S. wall retains its 12th-century design, considerably restored. The S. door of the chancel has good N. zigzag ornament, and the S. wall has on the outside a corbel table, partly of beaded ornament and partly of grotesque heads, whilst six high pillars, having between them rounded arches, which have been restored, are noticeable and unusual. The North and South Porches are late 15th-century work.

The present church seems to have been founded about 1170. The north and south aisles were added in the 13th century, and the other parts mostly in the 14th and 15th centuries.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

To the N. of the font is a small brass effigy of a child—Mary, daughter of Thomas Birchmore (1602). Several other brasses may be noted, and some 15th-century mural paintings in the nave. Three-quarters of a mile to the S.E. of the village is Hanslope Park, a small, pleasant and well-timbered park.

Hardmead is a secluded place close to the borders of Bedfordshire in a quiet agricultural district, to north of main road from Newport to Bedford. The church (o) (Newport Pagnell, 5 m.) is in a pleasant umbrageous spot near the Manor House, and, though small, has a nave, two aisles, and W. tower (c. 1250). It contains, however, in N. aisle a noticeable monument—a recumbent figure of Francis Catesby (1636), and a brass, on wall of N. aisle, E. end, of Francys Catesby (1556), a well-portrayed figure, the fur of the robe being admirably drawn.

Hardwick (Aylesbury, 3½ m.) is a well-grouped village—the houses clustered round the church on a little eminence just off the main road from Aylesbury to Winslow; on the E. is a valley of meadows. The church is interesting because the nave is probably of pre-Conquest date; the windows (Dec.) in S. aisle are noteworthy. Note a good monument to Sir R. Lee, died 1616.

Harleyford Manor (Marlow, 1½ m.) is a conspicuous object on a delightful side stream of the Thames between Temple and Hurley Locks. The sober and time-coloured red brick harmonises agreeably with the fine timber which forms the background. The house, which is placed on an artificial mound, and was built in 1755 from



COTTAGES, HARLEYFORD

designs by Sir Robert Taylor, an architect of considerable reputation in his time, has a curious semicircular projection on its river front. Its plain simplicity is an agreeable contrast to the numerous domestic buildings of the present day on the Thames, with their ineffective straining to be picturesque.

Hartwell — Domesday, Herdewelle — (Aylesbury, 2 m.) consists to all intents of the Hartwell House and Park, and the church which stands in the grounds to the N.W. of the house. The Lees, already a well-known Bucks family, came into possession of the property in 1617, and have retained it to this day. Among the members of a capable family the most noticeable is Sir W. Lee, who became Lord Chief Justice in 1737, and in 1754 Chancellor of the Exchequer, but died in the same year. Sir Thomas Lee built the present house early in the 17th century on the site of one much older. On the staircase are twenty-four curious figures representing Hercules, the Fairies, and Knights carved in oak, which probably were placed there when the house was built. The banqueting hall is now a museum of fossils and Egyptian curios, and there are a number of family portraits. The most noticeable are by Vandyck, Lely and Reynolds. A good view of Hartwell House is obtained from the footpath to Stone (*see*). Hartwell has obtained a kind of fame, because Louis XVIII. lived there from 1809 until his return to France in March 1814. The gardens were originally laid out in the formal style with terraces and an artificial lake, which still remains, though the garden has been put into a more natural state.

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The church is of no interest. It was built by Sir W. Lee (fourth Bart.) at the end of the 18th century on the site of an ancient church. It is an imitation of the Chapter House at York and of the ceiling of King's College, Cambridge.

Haversham (Wolverton, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a small village in a secluded hollow in a well-cultivated and varied district, not far from Northamptonshire.

The church (o) is the only point of interest. It is delightfully situated above the village, surrounded but not overshadowed by fine trees. The tower and part of the nave are N., the rest of the building is of later date. Note especially the beautiful 14th-century monument on N. side of chancel, which is probably that of Elizabeth, Lady Russell, whose fourth husband was Sir John Russell, Knt. She had previously married, firstly, Robert Lord Grey of Rotherfield; secondly, Sir John Clinton, Knt.; and, thirdly, Sir John de Birmingham, and by her will directed her body to be buried in Haversham church. Beneath a richly Dec. canopy lies, carved in white alabaster, the figure of an aged woman—her dress has been worked with singular care—beneath are high relief figures. In the floor of the chancel is a brass, considerably worn, representing a skeleton, a memorial to John Maunsell (1605); and on the S. wall is another commemorating Alice, wife of Thomas Payn, 1427. In a field E. of the 17th-century Manor House, which is close to the church, is a dovecot with the date 1665.

Hawridge (church 3 m. from Chesham) consists of some scattered houses with the long

HAVERSHAM—HEDGERLEY

strip of high common which joins Cholesbury Common on the S.

The church, on W. (right) of the main road from Chesham to Wendover and Aylesbury, is approached by a private road which leads to Hawridge Manor Farm, which it adjoins. The church itself is a small building of a nave and aisle, rebuilt in 1856. It is of no interest, but contains a Norman font.

Hedgerley (Slough Station, 5 m.; Gerrard's Cross Station, 3 m.) is a small and secluded village in one of the characteristic Buckinghamshire bottoms, among a tangle of copses, small grass fields and meadows. Though without any distinct feature it is extremely typical of an old village among the uplands of the county, having undergone few changes. It is dominated on the E. very picturesquely by the church, which is perched on a grassy headland. This is a modern building of no importance a little above the site of the original church. It contains a remarkable palimpsest brass, portraying Margaret Bulstrode (1540) and some children. This is made up of fragments of earlier brasses, which, however, except the inscription, which is hinged, being now affixed to a stone on the S. side of chancel inside the altar rails, is not distinguishable from an ordinary brass. On the reverse of the effigy is part of an epitaph in English verse—on that of the children—the lower part of the figure of an ecclesiastic, and behind the inscription a memorial of Thomas Totyngton, abbot of Bury St Edmund's

(1312). The fragments of a shield, engraved with a representation of the Resurrection, are now kept at the Rectory. On the N. side are brasses of Robert Fulmer and Joanna, his wife (1498). There is a curious relic, now framed, which, according to tradition, is a piece of a cloak of Charles II., which he gave as an altar cloth. The octagonal font P., with the Tudor rose and small reliefs of faces probably cut on a 12th-century bowl, is interesting.

Hedsor (Bourne End Station, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is a parish which has no village, but the interest of which is centred in Hedsor Park and church. The house is built on the site of the old Manor House, in imitation of a castle, on the summit of a hill, and is not ineffective in the landscape. The church is on another hill within the park, to the S. of the house. It has no architectural value, the arches and piers being all that is left of the original mediæval church. The quaint dovecot belfry and the warm roof, the trees about it and the distant views over Cookham and the valley of the Wye give it, however, a character of its own. It is reached by a pathway from the drive which enters from the Taplow and Wooburn Road. For those who are boating it is pleasant to land at the stage of the weir close to Cookham Lock, and follow the pathway to the road. This walk can only be taken by those who are actually going to the church, for otherwise strangers are not allowed to land. Note in passing the luxuriance of the foliage, and especially a splendid specimen of cupressus Lawsoniana, showing the fine nature of this commonly

HEDSOR—HILLESDEN

used but insufficiently appreciated tree. As to the Romano-British pile dwelling, discovered in 1895, near Cookham Lock, see Introduction p. 30.

Hillesden (Buckingham, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—in Domesday, Ilesdene.—The absurd way in which our forefathers derived the meaning of place names is well illustrated by Browne Willis' assertion that Hillesden signifies the downy hill, whereas, of course, the termination dene is A.S. for a hollow and the prefix Ile is probably the name of a person. Hillesden may, perhaps, be considered the most out-of-the-way place in the county. The church, the parsonage and a cottage or two form the centre of a parish of about 200 inhabitants, while the road, whether from Preston Bisset or Gawcott, is through grass fields and lines of gates. To the E. from the corner of the churchyard there is a way over grass through an avenue a mile long, which disappears in an aimless sort of fashion into the low-lying meadows. At the end, after a turn to the left among hedgerows, the wayfarer comes upon a reedy tributary of the Ouse, and is greeted with a notice that the ford which he has reached is dangerous for vehicles. However, there is a safe footbridge and then a good road to Verney Junction. But in this remote place is the finest P. church in the county, with the exception only of Maids' Moreton. The tithe of the church belonged to the monks of Notley Abbey, and it was by them that the present church was built. A complaint was made at the Bishop's visitation in 1493 that the church was very ruinous, and that the Abbot of Notley ought

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

to amend it, and he therefore rebuilt it, and his work remains while scarcely a stone is left of the abbey by the Thame.

The weak part of the building is the tower, which is poor, and of a period earlier than the body of the church, which, to use Sir Gilbert Scott's words, is "an exquisite specimen of the latest phase of Gothic art." The elementary idea of this church is a nave with small transepts and a chancel, but a chantry chapel being added to the N. of the chancel of the same length with it, and a sacristy of two storeys, with a large stair turret in one corner, the uniformity of the first scheme is lost. Externally the two most striking features are the porch and the N.E. stair turret, which is one of the finest in England. The interior is harmonious and uniform in treatment, the arches and supporting columns between the chancel and chantry being especially noticeable. The rood screen, of same date as the church, is remarkable. It has three arched bays, each subdivided into four lights, with tracery of great beauty.

In the chancel is a fine monument (1555) to Thomas Denton and his lady (he died in 1560) of alabaster, and having all the character of Renaissance work.

Interesting also is the old stained glass in the E. window, containing figures of saints, bishops and popes, which has been regarded by authorities as work done at the end of the 15th century. Still more noteworthy is the glass in the four upper lights of the E. window of the S. transept, which has been called the St Nicholas window. In this are

HILLESDEN

depicted various incidents in the legend of St Nicholas, and between each compartment is an inscription in Latin indicative of the subject of the painting above it.

At one time Hillesden House—its foundations can still be seen in the meadow at the E. end of the church—and its owners, the Dentons, were of much importance in the county. Edward VI. granted the estate to Thomas Denton, an eminent lawyer, Treasurer of the Temple. He made it his home, and represented Bucks in the Parliament of 1554. His monument has already been mentioned. But it was in the Civil War that Hillesden loomed largest. In 1644 it and the church formed the centre of a large fortified line. Both were defended and both were taken. You can see the marks of the bullet holes in the old oak door of the church, and you can read of the episode in the second vol. of that charming book, *The Memoirs of the Verney Family* (p. 192). Two days after Hillesden House was taken it was burnt, and its owner, Sir Alexander, who was imprisoned, died of a broken heart—his misfortunes were indeed overwhelming, for his son, Col. John Denton, was killed at Abingdon—but in 1648 we read, “they are building there againe and intend to sett upp a little house where the old one stood.” Hillesden House rose from its ashes and was described in the succeeding century as a “good old house,” with a “very bold terrace.” This house has in its turn been destroyed so completely that not a trace of it remains. Perhaps after all the most striking feature of the place is the contrast between the fine and

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dignified church and the tiny parish to which it belongs.

Hitcham (Taplow Station, 1 m.)—Domesday, Hucheham. — The church, with rare ancient glass (key at schoolhouse close by), is delightfully situated. The churchyard is enclosed by an old, low, red-brick wall (1681-86). On the right-hand side of the road running W. there is a pleasant view to the N. over Hitcham Park, and to the N.E., overlooking the low-lying walled gardens of the old Manor House. There are no remains of the fine mansion where, in 1602, Queen Elizabeth visited Sir William Clarke, Knt., and which at a later date was owned by the noted physician and writer, Dr John Friend, who is famous as one of the remarkable group of men of letters and statesmen who were gathered round Harley and Bolingbroke in the last years of the reign of Queen Anne. More fortunate than most of his Tory friends, he obtained an appointment in the Court of George I.

The church was originally N.; the nave is of the 12th century; the chancel is of the 14th century. Note the fine Dec. E. window of four lights, with two large quatrefoils and a wheel above them, filled with old stained glass (c. 1340), more fragments of which will be seen in the other windows in chancel. High up in the S. wall note the curious circular window (14th century) restored, and in the same wall a piscina and sedilia. A fine N. arch (c. 1190) divides the chancel from nave. Note in latter four N. windows, two blocked, N. and S.—also the carved pulpit (17th century), and in the vestry, N. of

HITCHAM—HOGSTON

chancel an old chest. In the floor of chancel are some old encaustic tiles. The Dec. window over W. doorway in tower was originally in the nave. The deeply-moulded doorway of S. porch has a fine oak door with large lock and key and handsome designs in iron work. On N. wall of chancel is an alabaster monument to Sir W. Clarke (died 1624). Under a canopy, each side of which a knight holds back a marble curtain, is the life-sized recumbent effigy of a man in armour, and below, in front, are other figures, male and female, kneeling. On the S. wall opposite is a monument to Roger Alford, (died 1580) two kneeling figures, man and woman, and children behind. On the chancel floor is a well-preserved brass to Nicholas Clarke, 1551. The effigy depicts a man in armour, his head resting on a shield; to his left, two sons, and on right a daughter. In the floor of nave are two brass effigies of Thos. Ramsey and his wife Margaret, 1510, and below their four sons and three daughters.

Hoggeston (Winslow Station, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.)—Domesday, Hochestone—is a small village half a mile from the main road, between Aylesbury and Winslow, on high ground. The church has been restored. Note (1) the old porch with the now worn timber; (2) the N. piers; (3) some Dec. windows. The effigy of the founder (?) of the church in a niche is in the N. wall of chancel. He holds what may perhaps be the model of a church between his clasped hands. This has been supposed to represent William de Birmingham (died 1342). The De Birmingham possessed the manor from

the beginning of the 13th to the beginning of the 16th century, when it passed by marriage to the Bulstrodes. Walter de Bulstrode was Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1348, but one can now only conjecture whom this figure is intended to represent ; probably, however, it was one of the family. The Manor House to the S.E. of the church, with its high chimneys and gables, now a farm, was built c. 1620, and restored in the 18th century.

Horn Hill.—A hamlet, with a small modern church, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Chalfont St Peter.

Horsenden (Princes Risborough, Great Western Railway, 1 m.) consists of a church (o), a mansion house built in 1810 on the site of an old building, and a few cottages grouped in the low-lying meadows between Bledlow and Princes Risborough. The small ivy-covered church consists only of a chancel with P. windows; the nave was demolished in 1765, and the present W. tower was built from the stones of the nave. Note the 16th-century screen and the modern font of Caen stone.

Horton (Wraysbury, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Colnbrook, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a scattered village among the brooks and meadows, the willows and elms of the lower Thames Valley. The place is full of interest as the home of Milton from 1632 to 1637. His father had a house here, but no traces of it are left. His mother, Sarah Milton, who died in April 1637, is buried in the church. The inscription, now much worn, on her tombstone can still be seen in the floor of the chancel. As to Milton and Horton, *see* Introduction, p. 55. The church (o), at the S. end of the village, is of some importance. The north doorway (c. 1165) is a fine example

HORN HILL—LITTLE HORWOOD

of late N. work. Note the knotted cable, a somewhat rare ornament, showing the tendency towards the E.E. style. The porch Dec. is the best wooden porch in the county. Note also the N. font and piers. The chancel is E.E., a good deal restored, and most of the windows are poor P.

Walkers to Wraysbury and the Thames side should take the footpath across the meadows.

Horwood, Great — Domesday Hereworde (Winslow Station, 2 m.), is a large village in a broken country of mixed agricultural character.

The church (o) stands on N. side of the main street. The tower, begun c. 1360, is dignified and large in treatment, and has a pinnacle at the S.W. corner. The windows, especially the W., are good. The nave and chancel are Dec. Note (1) E. window good, but very late Dec., almost transitional; (2) the loftiness of the interior; (3) the P. font, and screen, which is first-rate work; (4) Dec. piscina; (5) in chancel, brass effigy, Henry Virgine, Rector, 1487, in academical dress.

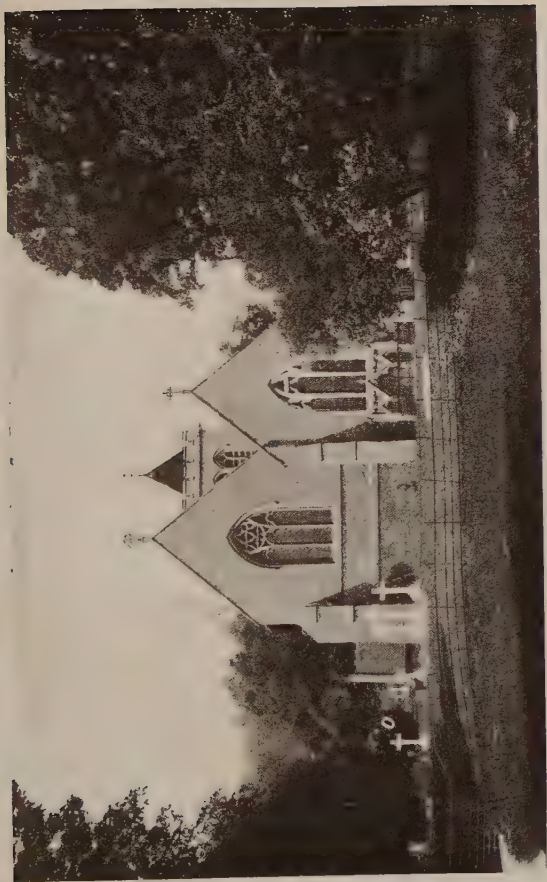
Horwood, Little (Winslow, 2½ m.), is a small village to the S.E. of Great Horwood, with old cottages with high-pitched thatched roofs. The church, at N. side of the village, is a small building. The nave was built c. 1200, but the church has been a good deal restored; there are some fair P. windows. The most interesting features are the mural paintings on N. wall—St Nicholas, 13th century, and St Christopher, 15th century. The upper painting is of The

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Purging of the Seven Sins, or the Morality of Pride and her Six Daughters, probably 16th century.

Hughenden (High Wycombe, G.W. & G.C. Railways, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a scattered parish, having for its centre the church and manor in contiguity, and around these all the interest in Hughenden is gathered. That interest is almost entirely modern and is connected with the years passed at Hughenden Manor by the late Lord Beaconsfield, from 1848, when he purchased it, to his death in April 1881. It is an attractive and a characteristic spot. The site of the present house was occupied by a farmhouse until 1738, when the estate was purchased by a Mr Charles Savage, who converted the old house into a gentleman's residence, and the arable land was transformed into a park. The true and ancient Manor House stood on the opposite ridge, and was known as Rockhalls. The modern Hughenden Manor, roomy but not large, stands on the back of a ridge of the Chilterns, almost surrounded by trees, from which the park, with many fine trees, falls in a green undulation. In this park, below the grounds of the house, but a little to the N., is the church, surrounded, like the Manor House, by trees. It was almost entirely rebuilt in 1874-75, the S. doorway, N., the chancel arch and some other parts of the chancel, and the so-called De Montfort chapel, at the N. of the chancel, being all that is left of the mediæval work, except a noticeable Dec. font. At the N.W. corner of the chancel is the monument erected by Queen Victoria, and a simple marble tablet, on which is inscribed :—

“TO THE DEAR AND HONOURED MEMORY OF BENJAMIN DISRAELI, EARL OF BEACONSFIELD, this memorial is placed by his grateful and affectionate Sovereign and friend, Victoria, R.I. ‘Kings love him that speaketh right,’ Proverbs xvi. 13. Feb. 27th, 1882.”



HUGHENDEN CHURCH

** Tomb of the Earl of Beaconsfield*

HUGHENDEN

Beneath it a brass inscription marks the place where Lord Beaconsfield used to sit. In the De Montfort Chapel are some curious monuments, the principal of which is on the south side of the chapel and has been supposed to represent Richard, fifth son of Simon de Montfort. It is a recumbent cross-legged effigy in stone of a warrior in chain armour. On a slab resting against the E. wall is the rude figure of a man in armour, cut in profile, holding in his right hand a mace. Against the same wall is another slab, with the effigy of a warrior, his body in full face, and the legs in profile; and on the sill of the E. wall lies the effigy of a knight in 14th-century plate armour; and in a niche in the N. wall another warrior, with a sword in his right hand and a cross in his left. It has been conclusively shown that these monuments, with the exception of that of the knight in plate armour, are spurious and were erected in the time of Henry VIII.¹ The family of De Montfort had no connection with Hughenden. A respectable local family, the Wellesbournes, seems to have wished to make out a connection with a famous house. Hence this curious fraud. In the S.W. corner of the chapel is the effigy of an emaciated figure in a shroud, on its breast is a small figure representing the departing spirit. Note also a brass to Robert Thurloc, Vicar, 1493, and a tablet, on which is represented a man kneeling at a desk, commemorating John Lane, 1621.

The walker should note a footpath entering the lower end of the park which leads along the slope below the house and cuts one which goes to the church. A pleasant walk is from Bradenham past the Manor House and across Naphill Common, and, bearing to the right at the edge of the common to Downly Common, to enter Common Wood on the dip of the Common, (gate on left), and then to follow the bridle-way.

¹ *Records of Bucks*, vol. vii. p. 362.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

which leads to the level of the Manor House and thence to the church, a walk which leads from near the house of Disraeli's youth to that of his manhood and old age among picturesque bits of landscape with which he was very familiar.

Hulcott (Aylesbury, 3 m.) lies secluded about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the main road. Passing along a lane, through wide grass fields, you come upon a large green lined with trees. On the S. side is the small church with a lych gate, modern; beyond, beneath the drooping limes which edge the E. end of the churchyard, glistens the water of an old moat. On the opposite side of the green are pretty cottages, old habitations, well and comfortably restored. The church is a small building with a nave, chancel, S. aisle and a small bell turret at the N.W. corner, and a Dec. E. window.

Ibstone, 666 ft. (9 m. High Wycombe, $9\frac{1}{2}$ N.E. Henley), parish now wholly in this county, and on the borders of Oxfordshire, commands fine views — N.W. over the vale of Oxford, S.E. over the Hambleton valley in Bucks. There is no village proper, the parish is scattered and small, and ecclesiastically joined to Fingest. The church, standing in a secluded, isolated spot, has much architectural interest. It is small, with chancel, nave and wooden bellcot. The S. doorway, nave, with a small window at W. end, N. doorway (now blocked) and font, are all noticeable examples of Norman work. The E. window is a plain E.E. triplet. The S. window of nave and chancel is late Dec.; the old carved pulpit is chiefly early 15th-century work, on which note the curious

HULCOTT—ILMER

ancient fastening for the hour-glass. In the churchyard, to N.W. of church, an unusual position, is an ancient yew tree of remarkably large girth, and near the gate a large stone coffin. The Manor of Ibstone, or Hibertane, belonged to Hervey, the Pope's Legate at the time of the Norman Survey.

Ickford (Thame, 4 m.), with Worminghall and Shabbington, forms a group of villages in the meadows of the Thame Valley, rather remote and lonely. The church (o) is at the S.W. end of the village, close to the vicarage. It is an interesting church, built almost entirely in the 13th century, and nearly all the details are worthy of study. It has nave, with aisles, chancel and W. tower with a saddle-back roof, good E.E. The nave has early 13th-century columns with capitals, and bases with square plinths. In the N. aisle should be noted a window (c. 1360) of three cinquefoiled lights, under a square head. The tomb of Thomas Tipping (1595) should not be overlooked, it has some curious work in low relief. The Manor Farm (16th century), and the bridge (1685), on the road to Tiddington, are worth notice.

Ilmer (or Ilmire)—Domesday, Imere—(Bledlow, 2 m.) is a very small village in the low-lying country of the Thame Valley, and forms the most distant and the nearest to the Oxfordshire border of the group of small communities lying beneath Bledlow Ridge, Saunderton, Horsenden and Bledlow. The church is quite small, with nave,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

chancel, N. porch and wooden belfry. Note the octagonal font and the rood screen, late 15th or early 16th century.

The Manor of Ilmer was, at the end of the 11th century, held by a subfeudatory of the powerful Bishop of Bayeux by the service of keeping the King's Hawks, a service which continued for several centuries.

Iver (1½ m. W.N.W. West Drayton Station) has still, among rather suburban surroundings, one or two bits of picturesqueness. The view of the bridge across the Colne, the old house by it, and the shining waters of the stream from the churchyard, is pleasing in the extreme, so is the Swan Inn. The church (restored) has two aisles, and is interesting from the indication it still gives of the influence of the successive styles of English ecclesiastical architecture. Note in this connection the Norman piers and arches (N.), with the remains of a very early arch in the wall, S. arches, double piscina and sedilia, E.E., and two-light window, Dec., in chancel, N. side. The W. doorway, late 15th century, and other details indicate later work.

Within the altar rails is a quaint Jacobean monument, representing a woman rising from her tomb, a memorial to Lady Mary Salter, 1631, whose husband, "Full forty years a carver to two kings," is remembered by a tablet in the N. wall of chancel. Below this florid memorial is a brass to Sir R. Blount and his wife, 1508, an admirable example of work of the best period, though the elaboration of the dress of the figures is not equalled by that on the features. Two bas-reliefs on wall of S. aisle should not be overlooked.

IVER—IVINGHOE

Each is evidently of the same period, but the date 1607 at the S.E. angle is alone decipherable.

Iver Heath is an ecclesiastical district, with a modern church to the N.W. of Iver.

Ivinghoe (Tring, Herts, 3 m.) is a place of the past. Three short streets radiate from the church, forming now a fair-sized village; at one time it was a small town, with its market, fair, and Court house (now a parish room), and with some considerable houses near and around it, which have since disappeared. It is easy to understand its greater importance in the past. It stands just on the edge of the Chilterns on the verge of the meadows, and within it were collected those who in summer pastured their cattle on the meadows which extended far to the north. Placed, too, at the junction of the Upper and Lower Icknield Ways, and on the road for wayfarers passing to the N.W., up the gap in the Chilterns which lies to the E. of Tring, it had a situation which tended to make it of some importance. Now it is left stranded by the movement of time. The only interesting feature in the place is the fine cruciform church. The Manor of Ivinghoe was granted by Edward the Confessor to the See of Winchester, and in the possession of the Bishops of Winchester it remained till 1551. This fact, together with the comparative importance of the little town, will help us to understand how so large and admirable a church was placed here,—a miniature cathedral in design, with its nave, chancel, N. and S. transepts and central tower, from which rises a small steeple. The central

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tower, supported in the interior by four sets of clustered columns, gives the church within a grandeur which is striking. The church, though built c. 1230, is now mostly Dec., with some good windows of that period on the N. and S. side of nave, but the E. window is P. Note the fine wooden roofs (15th century) ornamented with carved figures of angels, monks, panels, bosses, etc., and the fine W. porch.

On the N. side of chancel is a monument under a 15th-century recess. The figure of a priest. There is not sufficient evidence of the identity of the figure represented to enable it to be stated whom it depicts, though needless to say very definite statements have hitherto been made on the point.

The well-preserved carving on the capitals of the pillars, the quaint and rude carving (15th century) on the standards of the modern benches, the early 17th-century pulpit, with the large and no doubt much-appreciated hour-glass stand, should not be overlooked. Within the altar rails are several brasses, much worn. It is not quite certain that the inscriptions are rightly allotted to the effigies. On the S. side of floor are the effigies of Richard Blackhed, 1517, and his wife, Maude, and above them one to William Duncombe, 1576. The effigies of his wives and children are lost. On the N. side are two more brasses, one commemorating Thos. Duncombe, 1531, and the

IVINGHOE

other John Duncombe, 1594. To each of these the effigy of the wife is lost.

Sir Walter Scott took the title of his novel, as well as of its hero, from the name of the village of Ivinghoe. "The name of Ivanhoe," he says in his Introduction, "was suggested by an old rhyme. All novelists have had occasion at some time or other to wish, with Falstaff, that they knew where a commodity of good names was to be had. On such an occasion the author chanced to call to memory a rhyme recording three names of the manors forfeited by the ancestor of the celebrated Hampden for striking the Black Prince a blow with his racket when they quarrelled at tennis :—

"Tring, Wing and Ivanhoe,
For striking of a blow,
Hampden did forego,
And glad he could escape so."

It is somewhat curious to note that Scott apparently had forgotten the true name of the place, as he quotes it incorrectly. The tradition, too, on which the rhyme was founded, has been disproved, as the Hampdens were never in possession of these manors, and the lines have recently been considered as a remnant of a cavalier song.

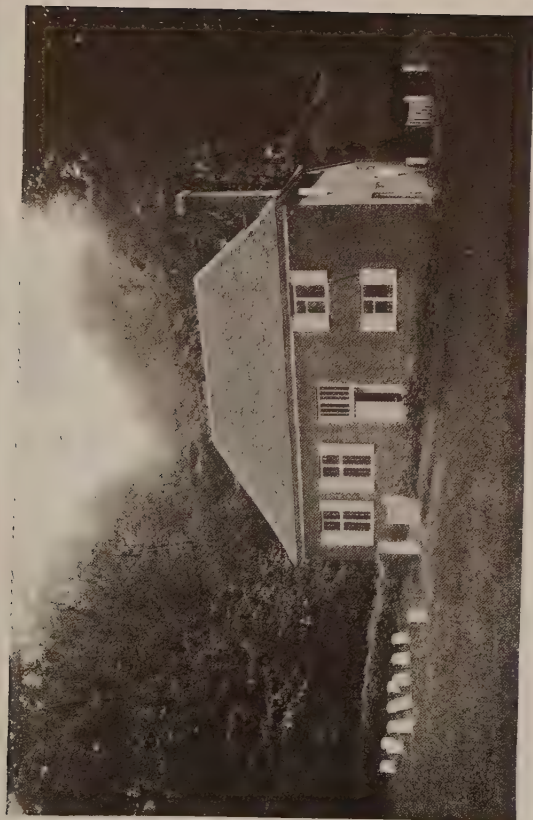
To the S.E. of the village, beyond some large intervening fields, rises an outlying piece of the Chilterns called the Ivinghoe Hills. From the Icknield Way they are somewhat striking. A long, high down is nearest to the main chain, and then to the N.E. are two clearly-defined summits, the range concluding with the bold outline of Beacon Hill, which descends in grassy

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

slopes to the Icknield Way, where the cross road from Gadsden and Herts leaves it. This is a striking spot ; a small clump of firs live a wind-tossed life. Above them rise the smooth slopes of Beacon Hill, while to the N. is a panorama of outstretching country extending from the wooded borders of Bedfordshire, across the Vale of Aylesbury, to the dim heights of Ashendon and Brill. The before-mentioned road may be reached from Ivinghoe by a footpath, though in fact it is easy to find almost anywhere a cart-track. By it the hills can be gained. This road runs up the hillside, past the highest point of the Ivinghoe Hills (811 feet), and so to Ivinghoe Common (723 feet), which touches the Herts' border close to Ashridge. These hills are a fine rambling-ground ; indeed, Edlesborough is an admirable point for the walker or cyclist, whether from Tring direct, or by Aldbury and Ashridge, and whether by road or on the pleasant turf.

Jordans (Gerrard's Cross, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. ; Beaconsfield, 2 m. ; Beaconsfield Golf Links Halt, $\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is the secluded spot where the quaint meeting-house of the Society of Friends stands, by the side of the little graveyard famous far beyond Buckinghamshire as the burial-place of William Penn.

From the wooded dell, upon a corner of which are the graveyard and meeting-house, there slopes a meadow, at the head of which, by the side of the road to Chalfont St Giles, is a square red house with picturesque out-buildings. Ellwood tells how, in 1670, informers watched the meeting, "then holden at the house of William Russell, called Jourdans, in the parish of Giles Chalfont." It is



THE MEETING HOUSE, JORDANS

JORDANS

with this house that are inseparably linked many memories of religious enthusiasm and persecution in the beginning and middle of the 17th century, since for years either the farm or the meeting-house was the centre where the Quakers from many miles around met for prayer.

The little bit of meadowland now lined by thickly-growing lime trees was purchased in 1671 on behalf of the Society of Friends, and in 1688 the meeting-house was built partly from money left by the widow of Isaac Pennington. No place in Buckinghamshire is more interesting and suggestive. We still see the shady meadows among the wooded uplands. Across the road is still the old house of Stone Dean—with a modern part added—which was built by Peter Prince, a member of the Society of Friends and a citizen of London, in 1691, and a quarter of a mile up the valley, towards Seer Green, is another old house, Dean Farm, once a Quaker home. The place would at any time be a charming piece of rural scenery, but when we see the plain headstone which marks the grave of William Penn (1644-1718), and note the last resting-place of Gulielma Penn, a woman whose attractive personality lives in Ellwood's naive pages, and of six of Penn's children, as well as of those admirable men, Isaac Pennington and Thomas Ellwood, it becomes a unique spot difficult to equal in its surroundings of historical interest and charm of English landscape. A pleasant footpath leads from close to the entrance gate of Welders on the road to Chalfont St Peter to this village, shortening the distance. For books on Jordans, *see* Bibliography.

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Kimble, Great and Little (Kimble Great Western Railway and Wendover Metropolitan Railway, 3 m.), are two adjoining villages. The churches are only a quarter of a mile apart, with a slight hill between them ; the place was called in Domesday, Chenebelle, and there has been assumed to be some connection between this name and that of Cunobeline, the British King. Little Kimble Church is very interesting, very small, and stands just above the Icknield Way, embayed in the finely-timbered slopes of the park of Chequers Court. A little valley with a small piece of water crossed by stone bridge, a 17th or 18th-century conceit, is seen from the E. end of the churchyard, and gives a completeness to a delightful bit of scenery. The church (key at adjoining farm, service once a month) is interesting, because it remains so completely untouched by the restorer. In style it is Dec. (consecrated 1317), having only a nave and chancel, the small N. and S. windows, though not specially noticeable, give some harmony to the building. The dark open roof, and the faint outlines, still discernible, of the large mural paintings, help to increase the feeling of antiquity. The oblong block of encaustic tiles in the chancel is interesting—six subjects in six compartments. That on the left is best preserved, and seems to indicate a king, a knight, and again a king. Note an old plain font.

Great Kimble lies to the W., with an inn, the Bear and Cross, which can be recommended, and has a restored church (o) with tower, nave, aisle and chancel, in style Dec., but quite the most interest-

ing feature in it is the Norman font. It is admirable in form. The fluted bowl has evidently at one time been coloured. Beyond the interest of antiquarian relics is the fact that at Great Kimble began the momentous constitutional contest between John Hampden and Charles I. on the question of Ship-Money, for the Hampdens owned the Manor of Kimbell from the middle of the 14th century to 1726, when it was sold to the famous Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. It was on a day in January, in 1635, that Hampden came from his home among the leafless beeches along the road by Whiteleaf Cross to Great Kimble Church and refused to pay his assessment. The actual proceedings of 1637 were based on a refusal to pay the assessment on property in the adjacent parish of Stoke Mandeville, but it is the meeting in Kimble Church from which we must date the actual commencement of the personal aspect of the great struggle for Parliamentary government.

Lacey Green is a parish, formed in 1857, which is constituted by the village of Lacey Green (Princes Risborough, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.). It lies among the most secluded part of the Chilterns, but has no objects of interest.

Lane End is a village and parish formed in 1867, and has a modern church (West Wycombe, 3 m.). It stands on high ground and includes Widdenton Park wood.

Langley, or Langley Marish, or Maries (Langley, Great Western Railway, $\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—the second name has several spellings; it appears to be the corruption of the name of a family, De Mariesies, who held the manor in the time of Edward I.—is

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

a considerable parish in the Thames Valley. Its centre is the old-world oasis in the midst of much cultivated land, not far from the railway and a canal, which is formed by the church, almshouses and a few cottages. Two groups of almshouses of red brick, now much toned by time, and exceedingly picturesque and interesting, are on the N. and S. sides of the church; they are called the Old and New Almshouses. The old (S.) were built by Sir John Kederminster in 1617; the new, N. of church, between 1669 and 1689, by Sir Henry Seymour. To the W. are some pleasant old cottages of no importance, but which complete a rather unique picture. The church (o), though architecturally somewhat chaotic, is attractive from its variety. It has a chancel, nave, W. tower, N. aisle and S. chapel, and library side by side. The tower of brick was built in 1649, and is a rare example of 17th-century work. Indications point to the church having been built in the 12th century, but the E. windows of aisle and chancel are Dec.; the other windows, with one exception, are square headed with Dec. tracery. In the E. window of the aisle, and in a window of the aisle, are some pieces of old glass, that in the aisle showing the arms of Edward I. On the S. wall of chancel is a fine example of Dec. sedilia, the spandrels being unusually well carved for a country church, the rood screen is late P. The screen between the nave and the chapel is late 17th-century work. The font (early 16th century) is octagonal, with panels of quatrefoils encircling heads and flowers. An attractive example of Jacobean monumental

sculpture is the Kederminster monument on N. wall of chancel; it is a family memorial to Edmund Kederminster, died 1607 (but erected by him before he died), his wife and children, and John Kederminster, died 1558, and his wife and children. The two generations of Kederminsters are represented by kneeling figures in coloured marble; below are the children, with their names quaintly placed above them. A number of other tablets with quaint inscriptions may be noticed in this church. One brass remains, that to John Bowser, 1608 (at present removed from the building and in custody of the churchwarden). The library (key at nearest almshouse S. of church) was built by Sir John Kederminster about 1623, a little later than the S. chapel. The painted panels of the wainscot presses are interesting, as well as the collection of old books which was placed there by Sir John for the benefit of ministers and such other in the county of Bucks as resort thereunto, as he says in his will. At the N.E. end of the village is Langley Park, purchased by Sir R. Harvey, in 1788, from the Duke of Marlborough, beautiful from its many trees. The existing house was built by the second Duke of Marlborough, grandson of the great Duke in the female line, soon after he bought the property in 1738. Still further to the N., and separated by the road to Iver from the Park, is a fine tract of woodland ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. long and $\frac{3}{4}$ m. in breadth) appropriately named Black Park from the many Scotch firs. The formal arrangement of the original planting (about the middle of 17th century, when the lake was made) has long disappeared, and self-sown trees have grown

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

up, forming a wild and beautiful bit of woodland scenery. The W. end is reached by the road N. from the church, keeping to the right, and then along the outskirts of Langley Park. From this road a footpath leads past the lake, through the Black Park to the Crooked Billet Inn on the road near Iver Heath.

Lathbury (Newport Pagnell, 1 m.)—in Domesday, Latesberie—is a small village in a parish on a fertile track enclosed in a loop of the Ouse, which, touching Newport Pagnell, turns then in a direction opposite its former course. The church and Lathbury House, rebuilt at the beginning of 19th century, stand at the end of a lane S. of the Newport Pagnell and Northampton main road. The church, with nave, two aisles, chancel and W. tower N., contains some interesting N. work, especially the south doorway, which, however, has evidently lost parts of the original work. The capitals of pillars of S. aisle are ornamented by grotesque animals. Note curious carving of one on S. side of nave. Also the carved flat slab, removed from one of the old square piers of nave in 1870 to the wall immediately below the Rood Loft steps, and the Chadflower monument, 1604, a lady and family.

A window on S. side contains 15th-century stained glass. In the nave and aisles are considerable remains of mural paintings (15th century).

Latimer (Chalfont Road, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.), a small secluded hamlet in the parish of Chesham, the centre of some delightful rural scenery, is a

LATHBURY—LAVENDON

$\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the main road between Chesham and Chenies, on the E. side of the valley of the Chess. It is very picturesque, cottages with old bow-latticed windows, a small green, the Chess winding through the meadows and the high wooded slopes which rise behind the village, combine to form a delightful piece of English landscape. The manor was given by Edward III. to William Latimer, to whose family it owes its present name, its more ancient one being Isenhampstead, to which the patronymic was added, and which, as in the case of Chenies, alone remained.

The fine Elizabethan mansion (Lord Chesham), for a time the prison of Charles I., and later a refuge to Charles II., stands high, overlooking the valley of the Chess. A small modern church is near it. To the right of the main road to Chesham, after leaving Latimer, is Dell Farm, near which some years ago the site of a Roman villa was discovered, coins, etc., were dug up, but the pavements left undisturbed.

Lavendon (Olney, $2\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is the northernmost village of the county, and is still a large village encircling the church; at one time it was more important. In the reign of Henry II., John de Bedun founded the Abbey of Lavendon, which existed till the reign of Henry VIII. No trace of the building now remains. A farm, the Grange (c. 1625), has been built on its site.

The value of the church architecturally is in the evidence which it gives of its antiquity. The chancel, nave, and tower are examples of pre-Conquest work. The pillars of the nave are large and round, with square abacus, the S. having grotesque heads

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

at each corner, and from them spring heavy-pointed arches, indicative of the transition from N. to E.E. The S. and N. doorways are E.E. and the porches P. Many churches in Bucks at one time were in this early style, but it is rare to find any indication of it now left.

Lavendon Castle was on a mount with three baileys. A farmhouse now stands on the mount, which is about half a mile N. of the church.

Leckhampstead (Buckingham, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—Domesday, Lechastede—lies in a corner of the county close to Northamptonshire. Its position serves to make it remote, as it is not on any main road, and one discovers it in a small valley on a little stream which flows by the church, turning a mill hard by—a pretty, characteristic bit of landscape. The church (o) is one of the most interesting in the county. It has a chancel, nave, with N. and S. aisles and W. tower. The two chief features of the church are the N. and S. doorways (Norman). Each is fine and each different—that on the S. being the earlier, and possesses a variety of ornamentation. The tympanum is especially noticeable with its curious carving. The N. doorway is a good example of transitional work. The hoodmould has a head at the apex and ends and is ornamented with a zigzag band and foliage. The 12th-century font, recut in the 14th century, is rare and beautiful. It is octagonal, and each of the eight panels is filled with a different subject—a bishop—our

LECKHAMPSTEAD—LENBOROUGH

Saviour on the Cross — St Catherine — Mary and the Infant Jesus — four roses — two leaves within a garter in the figure of a heart — a dragon, out of whose mouth proceeds a tree. Near by is a large recumbent figure of a knight in chain armour, 14th century — one may judge an attempt at portraiture. Note also the monumental brass to Reginald Tylney, 1506, and the 13th-century paintings in the nave.

Lee (Great Missenden, $2\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is not much more than a hamlet on the uplands, in a very secluded and pretty district, with deep bottoms, such as Ballinger Bottom, between the Missenden Valley and the borders of Herts. The village is a straggling collection of cottages, consisting of Lee and Lee Common, with an old Manor House well restored. There is a red brick modern church, and a little to the S. the old church, a small building, without a tower, is now used as a Sunday-school, and is without any architectural features except a poor three-light E.E. E. window. The mural monuments to the Plaistow family—the owners of the manor—have been removed to the new church, also the sedilia.

One mile E. of Lee, in Bray's Wood, are the remains of an ancient encampment — whether British or Roman it is now scarcely possible to state with certainty.

Lenborough (Domesday, Ledingeberg), a small hamlet 2 m. S. of Buckingham. The Manor House, now a farm, was the property of Gibbon

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the historian, and it is said that he lived there for a time.

Lillingstone Dayrell (Buckingham, $4\frac{1}{4}$ m.) has no village, the parish being centred in the church, which lies in the fields to the E. of the main road to Northampton and close to a farmhouse. The church, which has an 11th-century nave and chancel arch, shows much E.E. work. The tower is in this style; on S. wall of chancel there is a quite beautiful E.E. window of two lights, with a centre shaft and toothed ornament. The E. window of the chancel—the church has a chancel, nave, S. aisle and porch, and a N. aisle built when the church was restored in 1868—is peculiar, showing a clear feeling of the transition from E.E. to Dec., trefoils being placed as a kind of addition in the head to distinct three E.E. lights. The pillars are octagonal. A fine tomb occupies the centre of the chancel—two recumbent figures, a man in armour and his wife, side by side, the features finely and strikingly sculptured—a memorial to Paul Dayrell and Dorothy, his wife, 1571. On S. side of chancel is another tomb, having two brass effigies to Paul and Margaret Dayrell, 1491.

Lillingstone Lovell (Buckingham, 5 m.) was, until 1844, a parish and village of the county of Oxford, though it lies close to the Northamptonshire border. It is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of the main road from Buckingham to Northampton, a quiet little place standing somewhat high in a pleasant country. The church, which is just on the edge of grass fields, which stretch away to the E., is rather an interesting building with nave, chancel, N. and S. aisles and W. tower, with a

LILLINGSTONE DAYRELL—LINFORD

saddle-back roof, one of the three churches in the county which has this unusual roof. The characteristic features of this church are in Dec. style. The piers and the E. window of chancel and of S. aisle are all of this character. The former window is of somewhat unusual design, with late flowing tracery. Note also the Dec. niches in the S. aisle and the door of the S. porch. The brasses, which will be found in the floor of the chancel, are interesting, two hands holding a bleeding heart commemorating John Merstun, Rector, 1446. Near this are the effigies of Thomas Clarell and wife, Agnes, and beneath them their three children (c. 1460). In the floor of the middle aisle are two more effigies, memorials of William Rysley and his wife, Agnes (c. 1516).

Linford, Great (Newport Pagnell, London & North-Western, 2 m.), is a scattered village with an ancient church on the S. side of the branch line from Wolverton to Newport Pagnell, and which, though small, is a good example of a country church, having W. tower, nave, two aisles, chancel and S. porch. This church appears at one time to have been an example of Dec. work, but the tracery of the windows has been destroyed and replaced by modern work. The N. porch is (c. 1320) P. Note some interesting brasses. Two effigies in N. aisle commemorate Thomas Malyn and Elizabeth, his wife, 1536; two, in the nave, Roger Hunt and his wife, Johane, 1473, with curious inscription; and one in the chancel, near communion rails, N., represents John and Anne Vvedall, 1611. Note at E. of church the almshouses built between 1683 and 1704 by Sir W. Pritchard, of whom there is a monument in the church. The rectory and barn are of the 16th century.

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Linford, Little (Newport Pagnell, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.). Linford Hall, on the N. side of the Ouse, a few cottages and a farm, constitute the habitations of this small parish. The church is close to the hall on S.E. side. It is a small building, the most interesting feature is the 13th-century bell turret. Note an ancient font.

Linslade (Domesday, Lincelada) consists now of (1) New Linslade, an urban district adjoining the Leighton Buzzard station of the L. & N.W. Railway and best known as a frequented hunting centre in the winter; (2) old Linslade, the church (service in summer only; key at vicarage, New Linslade), Manor House and a few cottages picturesquely placed in the Ouse Valley, having for a background the pine woods on the high land of Bedfordshire. (Walkers leave the Bletchley road by the tunnel and take the footpath by the canal.) The church was originally N. The rude chancel arch appears to belong to this period, also the interesting font, circular, with grotesque figures and foliage round the top. The details of the church are generally poor Dec. and P. There are small brasses in the nave, figures of a man, three wives and twelve children (c. 1500). In the 13th century pilgrimages were frequent to a chalybeate spring near the church. The Manor House is now part of farmhouse and conspicuous to E. of church. The manor was held by the Corbets from end of the 15th century to 1688. At the hamlet of Southcote, S.W. of Linslade, is

LITTLE LINFORD—LONG CRENDON

the Rothschild stud farm, where many famous race-horses have been bred.

Little Missenden (see Missenden, Little).

Littleworth Common, a pleasant common (200 acres) to N. of Burnham. There is a modern church close to the N.E. entrance of Dropmore.

Long Crendon (Thame, 2 m.) is a large village, a not unimportant agricultural centre in a fertile district, but a village which has been decreasing in population. At the E. end is the church and near the gate is the old Court-house, a building of the 15th century, in which the manorial courts were held. Here Walter Beauchamp, the Great Steward to Queen Catherine, Consort of Henry V., held courts from the first to the eighteenth year of the reign of Henry VI., and here the warden and scholars of All Souls, Oxford, held their court in 1449 and 1459. It is an interesting architectural and social relic, and has been restored through the efforts of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest, and has been conveyed to the Society by the Lord of the Manor.

The church is large and cruciform, with nave, aisles, central tower, chancel, and transepts. Its importance lies rather in its size and general design than in its details. Viewed from the W. it gives a good impression of a P. building; though built mostly in the 13th century it has many later details. The N. transept has a good Dec. window, and the upper part of the tower is P. On the E. wall of N. transept are two worn brasses of a man and woman, John Canon (1460) and his wife (1468), and below them their three sons and eight daughters. In the S. transept is a large architectural monument, with recumbent figures of a knight in plate

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armour, and lower, a lady richly dressed, representing Sir John Dormer of Dorton and his wife. Above is a pediment supported by pillars of black marble. The date of Lady Dormer's death is given as 1605, but that of Sir John is left in blank ; probably, therefore, the monument was erected, as was not uncommon, in his lifetime and his heirs forgot to fill in the date of his death, which was in 1626. At the W. end of the village, at the top of the steep little hill by which it is approached, notice on the S. side of the road an old stone gateway. It is the entrance to Long Crendon Manor House. The building itself has, however, little traces of its ancient design. The other Manor House is near the church, approached by a narrow and striking avenue of elms and yews. It stands on the site, as seems certain, of the castle of Walter Giffard, the friend and adviser of the Conqueror, on whom Crendon, with many other manors, was bestowed. Crendon was the place which he chose as his new English home, and here he was succeeded by two more Walter Giffards, the first and second Earls of Buckingham. His "park" stretched along the hillside to the Thame, and by the banks of this stream, within the bounds of this domain, presently rose the stately walls of Notley Abbey. Our interest in the history of Long Crendon ceases with the death of the third Walter Giffard, without issue, in 1164, when the vast possessions were dispersed. In 1552 the manor passed into the possession of the Dormers of Dorton ; subsequently, in later years, to the family of Grenville.

LOUGHTON—LUDGARSHALL

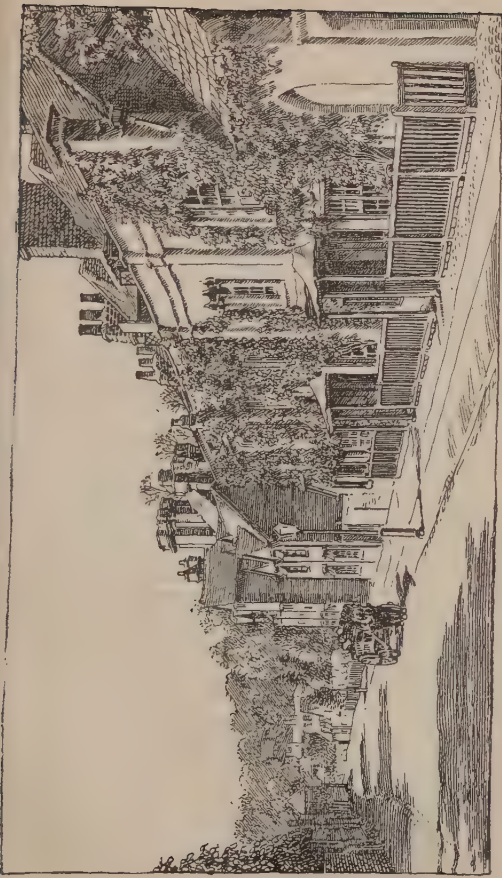
Loughton (Bletchley, $4\frac{1}{4}$ m.) lies half a mile to the E. of the Watling Street. It is a village of no size and without any special features, some old cottages mingling with ugly new red-brick structures. The church is conspicuous on high ground on the E. side of the village. The visitor will be at once struck with the rude device whereby the stability of the tower (15th century) is preserved—an additional buttress placed in the centre of the W. front. In the interior the tower arch, supported on either side by three pillars with rounded capitals, is noticeable. The arches and pillars of the nave are P., as are the windows. Note the monumental brass to Hugh Parke, rector, 1514, inside the communion rails. The Manor House, about a quarter of a mile W. of the church, restored in 1912, is an interesting example of domestic architecture of the 16th century.

Ludgarshall (Brill and Ludgarshall, G.W.R., $\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is a village on the borders of Oxfordshire among pastures and green lanes. It is of more than local importance, for Wycliffe held the living in 1368, but was never resident (*see* Introduction, p. 42). The interior of the church (o) is interesting. To be noted are (1) the very remarkable 14th-century capitals of the two W. piers, on N. and S. human heads and shoulders; on S. with arms interlocked; on N. with arms thrust out at the elbows; (2) the three lancet tower arches belong to the second half of the 15th century; (3) the N. font with a bowl with rude acanthus ornament, and with a band of shells and beads;

(4) the altar tomb, S. side of sanctuary, to Anne English (1565), with three well-preserved brasses of a mother, daughter and grand-daughter. The tower is Dec.

Maids' Moreton (Buckingham, 1 m.)—so called from two ladies of the Peyvor family who are supposed to have founded the present church in the 15th century—is a village standing on high ground to the N.E. of Buckingham. The church is one of the most important in the county. It is characterised by individuality and harmony of treatment, and is an admirable example of P. architecture still untouched. The W. tower is especially noticeable, as Sir Gilbert Scott said, “of admirable and unique design,” having two-light windows deeply recessed and divided by a kind of angular pier. The arch has rich flowers for the caps. The W. doorway is admirable; the N. porch is fan vaulted. Note the windows—the E. window later than the others, the sedilia, with finely-carved canopies, and divided by clustered columns, the N. font and the rood screen and the modern brasses (1890)—to the two maids of Morton in old matrices. Note also the remains of mural paintings over doorway of the nave and in the chancel, the latter (16th century) are of the Last Supper.

Marlow, Great (Great Western Railway) is one of those small pleasant Thames-side towns which have a family resemblance one to the other. The main street, as at Henley, runs up from the river, and at Market Square branches E. and W. There is nothing modern about the place, but nothing mediæval, as in some of the little towns of



SHELLEY'S HOUSE, GREAT MARLOW

MAIDS' MORTON—GREAT MARLOW

the Chilterns, though in St Peter Street and West Street some houses of probably 16th century may be seen. Note the Sun Inn in West Street.

Marlow (in Domesday Merlawe, from mer=a marsh, law or low=a mound) was probably a town of some importance from a very early date. We know of a bridge being in existence at the beginning of the 14th century, and this convenience to wayfarers would tend to make Marlow a local centre. The present suspension bridge, a familiar object to generations of lovers of the Thames, was erected in 1835. The church (o), close to the river, is a modern building of no architectural merit, though the spire, seen at a distance, has some picturesqueness by the water's side. It is worth while, however, to look into the church, for on the W. wall, close to entrance, is a monument to Sir Miles Hobart, who was killed on Holborn Hill, 1632. The event is commemorated by an absurd little bas relief below the monument, depicting a coach with off-hind wheel broken and horses hurrying down a hill. On the W. wall of vestry is a monument to Katherine Willoughby (died 1597), which is of the familiar 16th-century style—a father and mother kneeling and facing each other, and the children in gradation of height behind. It is noticeable for the colouring, which has either been very well preserved or replaced since the original erection of the monument by William Willoughby, husband of above. In either case, however, it is an interesting specimen of the monumental art of the age. It should not be forgotten that Shelley

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during the year 1817 lived at a house, now called Shelley House, on the N. side of West Street, and in his rambles about the Quarry Woods and during the hours he passed moored in his boat, composed the *Revolt of Islam*. (*See ante*, p. 57.) A little beyond Shelley's house is the Borlase School, founded in 1624, which is well worthy of notice.

Marlow, Little (Bourne End, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is a small village $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Thames. It can be reached from the river by a footpath about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above the boathouse at Bourne End. The church has a good deal of interesting detail and is on the edge of the meadows. It was restored in 1902. In the chancel are some E.E. windows, and in the nave P. Note the lofty tower arch (14th century) and the plain N. font and a brass on an altar tomb to Nichol Ledewich (1430) on S. side of chancel.

On the E. side of the church is the Manor House, the back part of which is early 17th century.

Close to Bourne End, adjoining the Abbey Farm, once stood the Benedictine Nunnery of St Mary de Fontibus de Merlawe, which was in existence in 1228, and was therefore probably founded in the 12th century. It was a small house.

Recent excavations of the foundation have shown that it consisted of a church on the W. On the S. were the domestic buildings, with a cloister of the same length as the nave of the church, and to the E. of this the dormitory, with a chapter-house intervening between it and the church.

Marsh Gibbon (London & North - Western Railway Station, 1 m.) is a picturesque village

LITTLE MARLOW—MARSH GIBBON

with 16th- and 17th-century cottages beneath large elms among large, open meadows. Marsh, or Merse, can be traced as far away as Edward the Confessor, for the charter by which he dedicated Islip, in Oxfordshire, to Christ and St Peter to the Abbey of Westminster, he also gave one hide at Mersce. At the Domesday Survey the Earl of Morton held a manor in Merse, which he bestowed on the monks of Grestein in Normandy. On the suppression of the foreign monasteries the De la Poles obtained the manor, and in 1441 bestowed it on the hospital of Ewelme, and since 1605 it has belonged, with Ewelme, to the University of Oxford. The name of Gibbon, or Gibwen, was derived from that of a family who held lands in Merse in the reign of King John. Another manor was at the Domesday Survey held by Wm. Fitz-Ansculf, under whom the former Saxon owner held it as his subfeudatory. A second Manor House (17th century), called Westbury, is still to be seen at the W. end of the village.

The church is at the N. end of the village, and is an interesting building with nave, chancel, aisles. The N. aisle and N. pillars were added when the church was restored in 1881. The S. transept or Ickford Chapel has a fine P. window; the roof of the nave is of the same style, but there are remains of a much older building, such as the E.E. foliage in the capitals of some of the pillars. The foliage on the N.E. pillar of aisle is remarkable—large lilies between which have been heads; the chancel is E.E. Note in N. wall a stone coffin with a floriated cross (late 13th century) The

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

tower has been rebuilt with the old materials. In the churchyard is the lower part of a cross (15th century). The Manor House, opposite the church, with its high gables and chimneys, is a delightful picture and an excellent example of a 17th-century domestic building. It still contains several interesting details, the staircases especially notable.

Marston, North (Grandborough Road Station, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Waddesdon Manor, 4 m.) is an important agricultural village stretching along the brow of some rising ground looking over the low-lying fields to the westward. Some picturesque cottages will be seen, and on the way to the church observe an inn with the unique sign, "The Armed Yeoman." A chalybeate spring at one time gave North Marston a reputation as a health resort. There was also a shrine in the church in honour of John Shorne, Rector, 1290, who seems to have been a militant Christian. Among his achievements—

" Sir John Shorne
Gentleman borne,
Kicked the devil into a boot,"

an old rhyme assures us. These two attractions caused North Marston to be the end of many pilgrimages. The church is one of the most interesting in the county, the nave has two aisles, the N. is E.E. with toothed ornament, the S. is D., and there are some curious capitals. The S. porch is good plain D. work, the tower is P. The chancel is entirely

NORTH MARSTON—MARSWORTH

singular in form. On the S. side of chancel are a fine P. sedilia and a good three-light window. Note a hagioscope ornamented with the four-leaved flower. The chancel is an extremely complete specimen of P. architecture, and is the great feature of the church. The exterior has all the usual P. characteristics in windows, pinnacles, battlements and buttresses. Observe especially the remarkable gargoyles on N. side. Note the P. font. On the N. wall of chancel a curious monument should be noticed—merely a hand pointing downwards, and around it the dry words, “He lise dust downe thare,” referring to John Virgin, Minister of North Marston, who died in 1694. A little to the W., on the same wall, is a graceful inscription (1613) by Dr John Saunders in memory of his wife, which begins,—

“ This small monument,
Though nor my skill, nor prayers, could save
Thyself, grave matron, from the grave,
Yet he takes care thy virtues lie
Engraven in brass, and never die.”

There is a well-preserved monumental brass to Richard Sanders, 1602.

Marsworth (Tring Station, Herts, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is an unimportant village. The pleasant village hall backed by allotment gardens, at S. end of village, is a satisfactory sight. The church has some interesting features. These are (1) the E.E. tower; (2) the P. windows of nave (the E. window is modern); (3) the P. font; (4) the 14th-century carved base of modern pulpit; (5) a late

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

and remarkable pictorial brass on N. end of altar tomb, probably that of Edmund West, Serjeant-at-Law (died 1618), depicting a curious death-bed scene; (6) a fine brass to Mary West (1606), with a chrysom child; and (7) two daughters of Nicholas West. These are in floor of S. aisle at E. end. The turret outside the N. wall of nave, once enclosing spiral steps to a rood loft, is curious. The moat of the old Manor House of the Wests is a little to the N. of the church.

Medmenham (Henley, 4 m.) lies on a level piece of ground under a sharp break in the Chilterns, and which begins three miles above Great Marlow, where the chalk cliffs are visible above the Thames. The church is half a mile from the river. The older part of the village is grouped near it; from this point to the river are a number of new villas, among which a few old and picturesque cottages remain. On a steep spur of high ground above the church, once the site of a castle, a farmhouse is boldly placed. On the river bank stood Medmenham Abbey, a cell to the parent abbey at Woburn, founded in 1200 by Hugh de Bolebec, whose father held the manor at the Domesday Survey. In the beginning of the 16th century the abbey was annexed to Bisham Abbey on the opposite side of the river. The abbey has totally disappeared, but the house, with ivy-covered, modern tower, looks picturesque enough viewed from the river. The church has little architectural beauty or interest. Note the N. work in inner doorway of S. porch, also the panels (17th century) of the pulpit, which,

MEDMENHAM—MENTMORE

with considerable reason, have been regarded as the work of a Dutch artist. Medmenham Abbey has attained a kind of celebrity, because in the middle of the 18th century it was selected as the scene of their revelries by a group of fashionable men who called themselves the Monks of Medmenham Abbey. Their form of amusement was at once profane and childish, mimicking, as they did, religious rites in their social meetings, but the character of their gatherings was probably neither better nor worse than that of others before or since, though from the position of those who took part in them they have achieved a disagreeable fame. Wilkes, Sir Francis Dashwood, afterwards Lord le Despenser, Chancellor of the Exchequer in Lord Bute's Government, Paul Whitehead, the dramatist, and Charles Churchill, the poet, were the leading spirits at the Medmenham meetings. Wilkes, who was the youngest of the party, was probably the first in the revelries, and on one occasion let loose among them a baboon "made up" as Satan.

Mentmore (Leighton Buzzard, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m.) stands on the summit of a hill with charming views. Nothing can be more delightful than the view to the N. on an autumn morning with the foreground of yellowing elms. The village is grouped about the S. side of the hill-top; on the W. are the house and gardens of Mentmore House. If the place is approached from Cheddington, the road, after crossing the railway to Aylesbury, runs through part of the Park. The village is not particularly picturesque, but is well cared for

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

and flourishing, as befits one side by side with so magnificent a house as that of Mentmore. The church is at the N.W. corner of the hill. While agreeable enough among all its pleasant surroundings, it has architecturally not much interest. The chancel is altogether modern, and many alterations have taken place from time to time. The most interesting details to note are the E.E. capitals which now form the base of the pillars, and the carved angels (15th century) in the roof. The existing pillars were probably placed in the church in the 14th or 15th century. Mentmore House was built by Baron Meyer de Rothschild, and commenced in 1851. The architects were Sir J. Paxton and Mr G. H. Stokes. Near the house is a large statue of Favonius, the winner of the Derby in 1871. It now belongs to the Earl of Rosebery, who, in 1878, married Miss Hannah de Rothschild, the only child of Baron Meyer. The house contains many fine works of art and *bric-à-brac*, but as it is not open to the public it is useless to enumerate its contents. The most important rooms are the hall, 48 ft. $\times$ 40 ft.—in it are three copper gilt lanterns, surmounted by the lion of St Mark, which were made in the Arsenal of Venice for the Bucentaur in 1470—and the dining-room, with carvings and panels painted by Van Loo, which were designed for Louis XIV. on the marriage of the Prince de Conti. The best view of the house is from the fields between the Cheddington Crossing and the road from Wingrave to Marston Gate Station, through which a bridle-way runs.

Milton Keynes (Newport Pagnell, 3 m.) is a

MILTON KEYNES

pretty village with many white-walled, heavily-thatched cottages, some of the 17th century. One of the best is the picturesque Swan Inn. The church, half-way up the village on W. side, is in a delightful churchyard filled with flowers and shrubs. This church is one of the first interest, and with Olney it forms the best example of the Dec. style in this county, but it is less formal and academic than Olney, and is full of vigour and individuality. It is simple in design, having a nave, chancel, tower at the N.E. corner of nave forming a transept, and a N. chapel. It is throughout Dec. Having said this, it must be left to the visitor to choose from the various details those which best please him. Unquestionably, however, the S. doorway with porch is the gem of the building. They are quite unrivalled in Buckinghamshire. The porch has open sides, divided by short columns with tracery in the heads. The inner doorway is richly decorated, between the arch and drip moulding, with a charming line of ball flowers. No description can do sufficient justice to the grace and beauty of this delightful work. The sedilia and piscina in S. wall of chancel are admirable and of the same character as the porch. On the S. wall of the chapel a niche should be noted, with ball-flower ornaments which are very uncommon in Bucks. The S. cornice is also noticeable with gargoyles and quaint animals, as are the windows of the tower, for an entirely Dec. tower is rare in this county.

The font is modern and is an instance, happily rare in Bucks, of renovation and not restoration,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

for the old font, a plain bowl on an octagonal stem, 15th century, will be found by the side of the W. walk leading to the S. porch. On the S. wall of chancel is the well-preserved brass effigy of Adam Babyngton, Rector, 1427.

Milton Keynes (Domesday, Midveltone) owes its second name to the De Catrines or Keynes, who held the manor in the 13th century. Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, who is so inseparably connected with the politics of the reign of Queen Anne, was born here in 1662, his father being rector from 1657-1693.

Missenden, Great (Metropolitan Railway), is a large village extending for half a mile on each side of the road from London to Aylesbury. To-day it still answers to Leland's (died 1552) description: "A praty thoroughfare, but no market-town;" for it is a quiet, old-fashioned place, with no actual picturesque feature, but reposeful with its unostentatious dwellings grouped below the beech woods which cover the adjoining hillside. It was just such a place as, in the Middle Ages, was the favourite situation for a religious house—the meadows, the stream at hand, the not distant woodland, where fuel could be obtained and hogs be fed. Thus it is not surprising that in 1133 an Abbey for Black Canons was founded by William de Missenden. All traces of the abbey have disappeared. A modern house with a park occupies the site of the old religious house. So the church outside of, and on the E. side of village, is now the only object of a stranger's pilgrimage. Its situation among pleasant trees, just at the edge of the abbey park, somewhat above the level

THE MISSENDENS

of the village which it overlooks, is delightful. Externally it is not attractive, P. windows have been placed in it which are too large and heavy for the original building. It is structurally a Dec. building with a W. tower, a nave, two aisles, chancel and transept. The interior—the church was well restored in 1900—is spacious and the Dec. pillars and arches of the nave are good. On the N. wall of chancel is a beautiful Dec. arcade, an exact facsimile of the original, opposite is a good E.E. priest's door. The N. font, plain, but with the characteristic cable ornament, indicates the early origin of the church, which was, no doubt, contemporaneous with the building of the abbey. On S. wall of S. transept is a curious brass showing the bust of a woman with plaited hair rising from a conventional arrangement of foliage. It does not seem to have any connection with the brass inscription beneath it. In the W. corner of same wall is a much earlier brass effigy of a woman, probably that referred to by Haines as a lady (c. 1450). From the W. end of the churchyard a footpath leads across the park to the London road, affording views of Missenden Abbey.

Missenden, Little (Great Missenden, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.), lies somewhat off the main road; a by-road makes a semicircle from it and rejoins it, after passing through the village. The church is small and is on the site of a Saxon church. It has a tower, nave, chancel and N. aisle. There is an E.E. E. window of three lights, the details of which should be noticed. A quaint dormer window has

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

been placed in the S. side of roof. There is also a N. font. Though the architectural features are of little value, it is a curious old building. On the floor of N. aisle is the remnant of a brass to John Style, 1613.

Monks Risborough (see Risborough).

Moulsoe (Newport Pagnell, 3 m.) lies on high ground close to the Bedfordshire border, one mile to N.E. of the excellent main road from Woburn to Newport Pagnell and the north. The church is one of some size, having W. tower, nave, two aisles and chancel. It now possesses chiefly the characteristics of the Dec. style, but there is a good deal of modern work, such as the E. window, but some of the other windows are of good Dec. design.

In the floor of N. aisle are the brass effigies of a man and woman, without an inscription. They probably represent Richard Ruthall and his wife (c. 1528).

Mursley (Swanbourne, 1 m.; Bletchley, 5 m.) was in the 13th century of more importance than to-day. It is an instance of a place which from a small country town in the Middle Ages has fallen to a small village. It is full of picturesque black-and-white thatched cottages, built late in the 16th and early in the 17th centuries. Note especially one, at S. end of village, with an old yew tree behind it. The church (o) stands on high ground about the middle of the village on the W. side of the road. With nave, two aisles and chancel, it is chiefly Dec., having pillars and windows, small, but good, of that style. The monuments to the Fortescues are the most in-

teresting part of the church. The reader may wonder how these monuments come to be here. A mile across the fields may now be seen two modest farm houses, but they stand in the spot where, about 1590, Sir John Fortescue (1538-1607) built one of the finest country houses of the time. It cost £33,000, equivalent to £120,000 at the present day. Here Queen Elizabeth was entertained, and afterwards her successor. Sir John, who was a second cousin once removed of the Queen, and who from his considerable learning was selected to superintend her studies, was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1589, and holding that important and lucrative office was able to amass a great fortune. For a long time, too, he represented Buckinghamshire in the House of Commons, and for many years held a considerable place in the Government. He was the friend of Burleigh and Bacon, of Raleigh and Essex, and enjoyed in a high degree the confidence of Elizabeth. He was succeeded in his estates by his son, Sir Francis, whose son, Sir John Fortescue, died in 1658. The title became extinct in 1729. In the proximity of the present buildings there remain the terraces and fish ponds of the stately mansion, which has now disappeared. On the N. side of the chancel, in a recess, is a monument to Sir John Fortescue, hardly as striking as one might expect considering his position. It is of the typical Jacobean character—a man and wife kneeling opposite to each other. The figures are in alabaster and painted. Below, on a black marble slab, is a brass effigy of Cecily, his wife, dressed in rich brocade,

who died in 1570, probably placed here before the other monument. On the opposite side is a monument to Sir Francis Fortescue, son of Sir John, which was erected by his wife, though she is also depicted. It is in the same style as the other.

Nash (Swanbourne, 3 m.) is a village and a new civil parish under the Local Government Act, 1894—in the high district between Buckingham and Bletchley. The church is a small modern building erected in 1857 from designs by G. S. Street, R.A.

Newton Longville (Bletchley, 2½ m.)—Domesday, Newnton, the second name being derived from Longueville in Normandy, Walter Giffard having endowed an abbey there with the manor of Newnton. This village is large, with some noticeable 17th-century cottages, and a Manor House (16th century), with dovecot, near the church. This (o) is in the centre of the village and has much to attract a visitor; not the least is the view to the N. The piers are N., with grotesque figures on N. side and hollow mouldings round the arches, and the font, with 17th-century cover, is of the same period, it has the cable ornament with leaf and flower designs, and is supported by eight small columns. The windows are P., the E. window being late in the style. A good deal of work was done by New College, Oxford, about 1442, when the P. windows were probably inserted. On the piscina are the arms of this college. On the large pier, which is at the N.E. angle of the S. aisle, is a recess, in which was at one time the effigy of a knight in chain armour. Only the head now remains. On the N. wall of chancel is a modern

NASH—NEWPORT PAGNELL

brass to W. Groyn, Rector, 1479-1504, who was the first teacher of Greek at Oxford. In the S. wall of S. aisle is a niche, with the apparently original door. This part of the church was no doubt at one time a chapel. The woodwork of the roof should not be overlooked, and that in the porch is striking in its massiveness. On the E. wall outside is a rude figure of St Faith, to whom the church is dedicated. It is perhaps of the same age as the earliest remaining part of the church.

Newport Pagnell (L. & N.W. Ry.) consists of the old part, the High Street, and some new streets between the W. end of the High Street and the railway station. The church stands at the top of the High Street on a high position on the N. side. It is large, with nave, two aisles, chancel and W. tower, P. and N. and S. porch. It is a lofty, well-proportioned church, but spoiled in the interior by galleries. Much poor P. work in the windows has detracted from the character of this building, the two best features of which are the porches. The S. doorway and porch have much rich Dec. work; the N. porch, with a parvise, is ribbed, but is imperfect. The roof of the nave and aisles (late 15th century) are remarkable. There is a brass effigy of a man on door leading to roof. On S. side of churchyard is a tomb to T. A. Hamilton, with inscription by Cowper (c. 1740).

Newport Pagnell is an ancient town. It is said that it belonged to one Ulf, a Thane in the reign of Edward the Confessor, but when the Norman Survey was made, William Fitz-Ansculf, a powerful baron, owned the manor, and in the reign of William Rufus Fulc Paganel, from whose

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family the town derives its second name, was in possession, and founded Tickford Priory in the parish of Newport Pagnell. This was one of the numerous religious establishments subservient to a foreign monastery, until, in the reign of Henry IV., it was subjected to the Priory of Holy Trinity, York, at the dissolution its revenues were appropriated by Wolsey towards the foundation of his College at Oxford. During the Civil War, Newport Pagnell was of great strategic importance. The occupation of this town by the Royalists, in 1643, cut the communication between London and the North, and Essex marched with seven London regiments and forced the Royalists to abandon the town. A strong Parliamentary garrison replaced them, and here, in 1644, Cromwell's eldest surviving son, Oliver, died of smallpox. The garrison, under Sir Samuel Luke, the original of Butler's *Hudibras*, successfully repulsed many Royalist attacks, and the town remained strongly fortified for two years and nine months.

Newport Pagnell forms a good starting-point from which to visit the numerous and interesting churches which are to be found between it and the borders of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.

Newton Blossomville (Turvey, Beds, 2 m.) is a small village on S. side of the valley of the Ouse, the slow waters of which touch the N. side of the churchyard. This proximity to the river gives an individuality to this church among the reeds and mist and water-birds. It is architecturally attractive, with a nave, and N. aisle extending the length

NORTH CRAWLEY

of church, chancel, W. tower (P.) with a turret, and S. porch. The two E. windows show good Dec. work, as do the S. windows of nave and chancel. The tower is well-proportioned. Near by is a house, formerly the Manor House, with the date 1580. At Domesday Survey, Newton (Newenton) was part of Lavendon, but in 1203 a family of Blossomville, or Blosseville, were owners of the land here, and from them it took its present name. A foot and horse way—practicable, but not agreeable, for bicycles—leads past the W. end of the church, and crossing the water leads through Cold Brayfield Park and some fields to the main road between Turvey (Beds) and Olney.

North Crawley (Newport Pagnell, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a considerable village on the eastern borders of the county. The church is an important building with nave, aisles, chancel and W. tower. Below the E. window is an inscription recording the rebuilding of the church in the 13th century. The pillars of the nave are circular or octagonal, and some have slightly foliated capitals, and show traces of colour. The fine roof P. is panelled, with moulded ribs and rich bosses, but the interest of the church centres in the rood screen, which is probably late 15th-century work. The upper part is open screen work, and the lower contains sixteen panels, on each of which is a figure either of a saint or prophet. An interesting brass on the S. wall of chancel to Dr John Garbrand, 1589, depicts him in an attitude of prayer. He was the son of a Dutch bookseller in Oxford, by name Herks, but was educated at Winchester and New College, and attained some importance as a theological scholar and preacher.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

To the N.E. of the village is the Grange, a fine Tudor House, at one time the residence of Cardinal Wolsey, and visited by Queen Elizabeth in one of her royal progresses. The old moated Manor House (17th century) stands about a mile to E. of church, and the timbered framed Moat Farm (16th century) is half a mile nearer.

North Marston (see Marston).

Notley Abbey (Thame, 4 m.).—Among the religious houses of Buckinghamshire which existed before the Reformation, Notley Abbey was one of the most important. It was founded by Walter Giffard, first Earl of Buckingham, for monks of the Augustine Order, about 1162, and until the dissolution of the monasteries it grew in consideration and wealth. It was endowed from time to time by additional lands in Bucks and in the neighbouring counties, and at the accession of Edward IV. the Priory of Chetwode was added to it. Like some abbeys of which considerable ruins still exist, such as Tintern and Bolton, it was placed in a valley, close to the Thame, under the shelter of the rising ground to the N. of the stream. From the date of its dissolution it quickly fell into ruins, and to-day no substantial portion is left but the beautiful E.E. corbel table, which forms one end of a barn, and which is depicted in Parker and Rickman, and the turret which stands at the corner of the new house on the site of an older building which bears the name of Notley Abbey. Other fragments may be found, but these are too scattered to be of architectural value. Note also the dovecot to the N. of the house.

Oakley (Brill, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is attractively nestled at the foot of Brill Hill, straggling from the top of

NOTLEY ABBEY—OLNEY

slopes to the low meadows which stretch away to Thame. The church has some interesting features. The tower is Dec., with a bold stair turret at the S.E. angle rising above the tower with a finial. A S. transept has good Dec. windows. On the outside is an unusual sepulchral recess, the only one in Bucks with a cinquefoiled arch. The S. doorway is Dec.; inside, the nave arches are examples of transition N., as is the font.

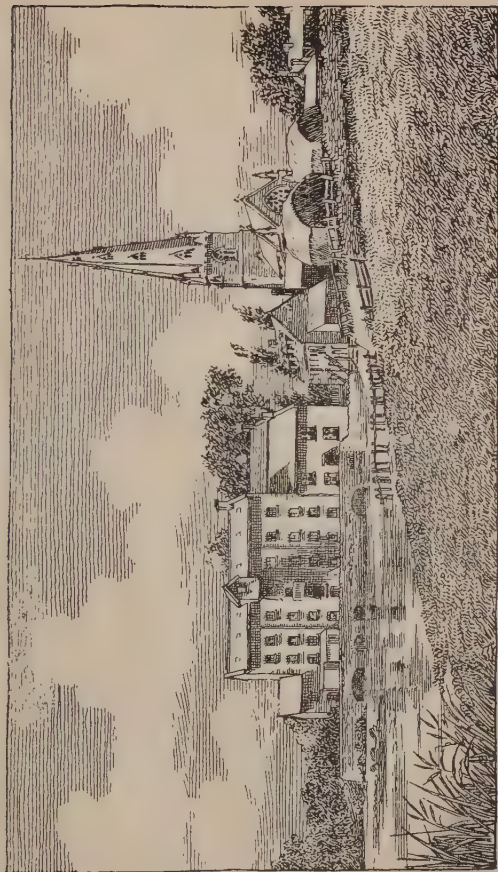
Olney (Midland Railway and Newport Pagnell, London and North-Western Railway) lies in the N. of the county. Around it are gathered memories of Cowper (*see* also Weston Underwood), as about Stoke Poges linger those of Gray. Olney is to-day much as it was in the middle of the 18th century. The church by the water, the compact rectory, Cowper's substantial and plain house in the market-square, even the little tiled summer-house in the garden behind it, remind us of Olney as it was a century and a half ago. In 1767 Cowper arrived at Olney; about eighteen years later (1786) he moved to Weston Underwood, a place as familiar to him as Olney itself, and nine years afterwards he finally left the county. Few men whose home has been in one place for so long a time have remained in it so much as Cowper stayed at Olney and Weston.

The station is to the N.E. in the upper part of the town. In the market-square Cowper's red-brick house, now the Cowper Museum, will be noticed at the S.E. side. It has two doors, as when Cowper and Mrs Unwin lived in it, but they only occupied the western half. "You have

not forgotten," Cowper writes to Mrs Unwin's son in 1781, "that the building we inhabit consists of two mansions." The entrance passage and small room on the right formed Cowper's hall: on the left is the parlour—his favourite seat in it was at the second window. A little way down West Street a butcher's shop will be seen on left-hand side. A passage by it has the notice, "To the poet Cowper's garden," and on payment of a small fee at this shop one can walk round the garden, in a corner of which is still the famous summerhouse. The back of the vicarage can be seen, and one can appreciate quite well how, to make intercourse more easy between Mr Newton at the vicarage and Cowper and Mrs Unwin in the Square, a communication was opened between the two houses.

In this secluded little place most of the "Task," as well as "John Gilpin," was written. "Our severest winter," he writes to Mr Unwin (June 8, 1783), "commonly called the spring, is now over, and I find myself in my favourite recess, the greenhouse. In such a situation, so silent, so shady, where no human foot is heard, and where only my myrtles presume to peep in at the window, you may suppose I have no interruption to complain of and that my thoughts are perfectly at my command. But the beauties of the spot are themselves an interruption, my attentions being called upon by those very myrtles, by a row of grass pinks just beginning to blossom, and by a bed of beans already in bloom."

Out of West Street, a street on the left leads



COWPER ROLLER MILL AND CHURCH, OLNEY



the visitor past the vicarage, which is interesting as an example of domestic architecture of the 18th century, for the old house was almost entirely rebuilt in 1767. Returning again to West Street we follow it to the church close to the bank of the Ouse—

“Slow-winding through the level plain
Of spacious meads, with cattle sprinkled o’er.”

On a summer evening the delicate mists, the tranquil river, on the high ground across the valley the tower of Emberton rising from the elms, are a pleasant sight.

The church is architecturally one of the most important in Bucks, and one of the few with a spire, which rises from a cornice of masks and flowers, and has octagonal pillars at the angles. The whole building is entirely in the Dec. style, and a fine example of its earlier and more reserved manner. When a building is so complete it is unnecessary to point to specific details. On the whole the tower and spire are of most interest. But it is unquestionably from its association with Cowper and his friends—the gentle Mary Unwin, the severe John Newton, Lady Hesketh and Lady Austin, with the microcosm of 18th century life, which is imperishably preserved in the “Task” that Olney has an abiding interest.

Cowper’s oak—the Yardley oak of the poem—

“Of girth enormous, with moss-cushioned root,”

is a pleasant object for a walk. It is in Yardley Forest, which is within the borders of North-

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

amptonsire. The main road to Northampton must be followed for two miles, and then a road on the left taken which brings one through Yardley Chase to the old hollow oak. A shorter and pleasanter way is to take the path from the close called the Pighkle. To reach it go down Spring Lane which joins the market-place just N.W. of the Bull Hotel. This path runs nearly parallel with the road from Olney to Weston. It leads to the height which Cowper used to call the cliff—"the cliff is no cliff, nor at all like one, but a beautiful terrace sloping gently down to the Ouse." The path presently crosses over the railway, then passes the farmhouse of Hungry Hall, and so to Kilnwick Wood, and presently the oak is reached. A mile distant, close to the old-fashioned farmhouse of Chase Farm, is another but sound tree. This is the oak, which in Cowper's time was called Judith, which he mentions in his correspondence. It is interesting to note that from a memorandum found among Cowper's correspondence this tree measured in his time 28 feet 5 inches in girth, and now it is 32 feet; thus it has increased about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in a century and a half. To-day, by the way, it is called Gog, and the old tree near it Magog. The roads about Olney are excellent, and it will be found a capital end or beginning of a bicycle expedition.

Oving (Waddesdon Manor Station, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a high-standing village looking over a fine expanse of pastures to the W., and to the E. over the more undulating land towards Winslow. The church (o) is at the W. end of the village. It is

OVING—PENN

a small but interesting building with a nave, S. aisle, small transept (modern), chancel and W. tower. The S. porch is early Dec. The chancel, with a three-light window, is a good example of E.E. architecture applied to a small country church. It has a P. screen. In S. aisle is a large recess for a tomb of Dec. character.

Padbury (London and North-Western Railway) is a village nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ m. long—beginning with the station and extending to the church, which is at the N. end—with some interesting half-timbered 17th-century cottages. The church has some good windows—the E. window P. and the N. windows of chancel Dec. The circular windows of the clerestory (c. 1330) are remarkable, also the remains of paintings on N. wall.

Penn (Beaconsfield, G.W. & G.C.R. Station, 2 m.) from its position (567 feet) and associations takes a foremost place among the villages of the county. Though approached without any abruptness it stands on a commanding position above the surrounding country. To the S.W. is the valley of the Thames, the horizon broken by the Berkshire Hills, in the opposite direction a mass of woodland, with openings here and there of cultivated land. The village is small and straggling. The name has frequently been regarded as the Celtic word for a headland, which is so frequently met with in the W. of England and Wales. It is equally possible, however, that it is A.S. *pen* = an enclosure, which would point to the spot as open ground surrounded by forest. The church (o) is a small flint-covered building with a nave, chancel, small S. aisle and W. tower. Though originally built in the 13th century

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there are few features of architectural value. The roof of the nave (15th century) is, however, an interesting and unusual example of good woodwork in a small church. Several interesting relics are to be seen of the successive generations which have passed away during the existence of the church—a stone coffin, probably 13th century, in the tower some curious rhymes on boards, a large coat-of-arms of Queen Anne, and a font with a leaden bowl (rare).

The interest of the church is, however, centred on the several memorials of the Penn family—(1) A brass to John Penn (1597) and Ursula, his wife. This represents a pleasant-featured man of middle age, with pointed beard and ruff, and in plate armour—the figure is now broken off at the waist. Opposite is the full-length figure of his wife—the lower part has gone. Beneath the place to which their feet extended is a group of their children. This elaborate and pleasing memorial is completed by four Latin lines to the effect that burial does not separate two kindred spirits—

“Horum terreno claudentur membra sepulchro,
Sed capiunt animas sydera sola pias,
Quos Amor univit, mortis seperare potestas
Non valuit, junctos cerimus hoc tumolo.”

(2) Brasses to William Penn, Esq., in armour (1638), and his wife, Martha (1635); (3) John Penn (1641) and his wife, Sarah, with effigies underneath of their ten children. We note a change which took place in men's armour in the beginning of Charles I.'s reign, namely, the protection of the legs by heavy jack-boots instead

of jambs. (4) On a slab near is the brass effigy of Susan, wife of Sir Henry Drury, and mother of Mrs Sarah Penn (1640). (5) An earlier brass to Elizabeth Rok (1540) represents her in her shroud, beneath which is the inscription in the unusual form of a prayer. The border is a good and rare example of ornate Renaissance tracery. In the centre of the chancel is a stone slab which marks the grave of Roger Penn, who died unmarried in 1731, when the property passed to his sister, the wife of Sir Nathaniel Curzon, and so passed away from the Penns of Penn. There should be noted, also, the stone in the nave (W. end) which indicates the tomb of William Penn, the infant son of Thomas Penn, one of the sons of William Penn—according to the parish register, others of whose grandchildren are buried in the same grave. This brings us to the debated question of the connection between Penn and William Penn. That he considered that he was one of the family there can be no doubt, for on the monument to his father, Admiral Penn, in the church of St Mary Redcliffe, at Bristol, he is said to have been the son of "Giles Penn, of the Penns of Penn Lodge, in the county of Wilts, and those Penns of Penn in the county of Bucks"; this inscription was probably written by William Penn himself. We have, however, no direct evidence of any connection between the two families. But there were Penns of Penn long before those whose names and features are preserved to us in the time-resisting brasses, and in the 14th century the Lords of the Manor were the Berkeleys—whose

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home was Berkeley Castle, on the estuary of the Severn. It may well be, therefore, that some one of the Penns of Penn passed with his lord into the west county, from whom descended the Penns of Minety. Of these the first of whom we have knowledge is William Penn, a yeoman, who died in 1591. Two miles from Penn is the burial-ground of Jordans (*see* p. 172), where William Penn was laid to rest after a strenuous life—two miles distant, it is reasonable to assume, from the quiet hamlet which was the home for centuries of his race—though of the house where later generations lived no traces now remain, the Manor House having been long since replaced by a modern building.

A short distance along the road to Wycombe, on the right, is a field which is called the French School Meadow. In it there stood the house which Burke used in 1796 as a school for fatherless young French *émigrés*. He often rode or walked from Beaconsfield to see them, and the little foreigners, in their military school dress, wandered about the beech woods and lanes. After Burke's death the school was for some years supported by the Government.

Penn Street is a picturesque hamlet and ecclesiastical parish (1850), with a pretty modern church (1849), on the uplands between Amersham and Penn. On the S. side is Penn House (Earl Howe's).

Pitchcott (Waddesdon Manor Station, 2 m.) is a small village, with a church, on an eminence with a fine view to the W. over the vale of Aylesbury. The church is small and unimportant, E.E. in general character, with poor P. windows.

Pitstone (Tring, Herts, 3 m.) is a small uninteresting village on the spurs of the Chilterns, a bleak and rather forlorn place. The position of the church, to the W. of the village, in the fields where it stands alone with the domelike eminence known as Pitstone Hill (700 ft.), which is divided from the Ivinghoe Hills by the road from Ivinghoe to Aldbury (*see* Guide to Herts), forming its background, emphasises this feeling. The plain W. tower and general view of the church are rather depressing. The windows E. and S. in the chancel are P. The pillars which divide the nave from the N.—the only aisle—have some rude floral decoration of the capitals. The chancel arch is pointed and has the character of early work. The tiles of the chancel (14th and 15th century), though much worn, are interesting examples of old designs, chiefly of four-leaved flowers. The pulpit is a good piece of Jacobean wood-carving. The font is the most attractive part of the church; it is elaborate and beautiful. The ornamentation of the lower part of the circular bowl is fluted, which is divided from the upper part by a cable. Some four-leaved flowers on the E. front and small arches on the W., and a string round the top complete a charming piece of work, of the N. or Trans. N. period.

Preston Bisset (Finmere Station, Oxon, 2½ m.) is a long village with picturesque 17th-century thatched cottages each side of the road. The church (o) is at the N. end. It has a low tower, a nave, chancel, S. aisle and a porch, and was built on the site of a N. church about 1325-1350. The

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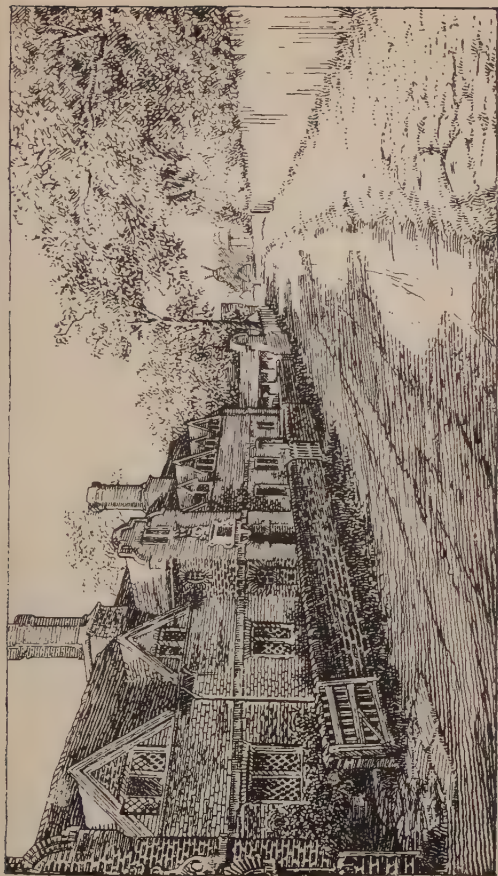
windows are Dec., with flowing tracery, and are excellent work. Note also the 15th-century font and the Dec. sedilia, and the grotesque corbels of the chancel arch.

Prestwood (Great Missenden, Metropolitan, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.; High Wycombe, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—570 ft. above sea level—is a new parish with a church built in 1849. It is the centre of a high plateau full of pleasant woods and bottoms.

Princes Risborough (*see* Risborough).

Quainton (Quainton Road, G.C. & M. Railway, 1 m.)—Domesday, Chentone—is an interesting and accessible village, pleasantly placed below the high grassy hills which rise above it to the N.E., from which there are extensive and delightful views towards the borders of Oxfordshire. At the top of the green are the remnant of an old cross and a farmhouse built by Judge Dormer in 1723, near a yet older building, and behind the now seldom seen windmill.

The market-cross, probably of the 15th century, of which the steps and part of the column only are left, is the only one that remains in the county. Market-crosses were common in mediæval England. Erected in a religious spirit, they became structures from which proclamations and notices were issued, and round which were gathered the buyers and sellers of the countryside. In the street to the right (E.) at the head of the green are some old cottages with thatched roofs. At the end is the church among the trees. Close to it is a row of almshouses, delightful examples of domestic architecture, built by Richard Winwood, son of Sir Ralph (*see* Datchet), in 1687. Nine



THE WINWOOD ALMSHOUSES, QUANTON
A.D. 1687

PRESTWOOD—QUAINTON

principal gables break the roof; between each two is a smaller one, and two dignified porches with inscription and the Winwood arms relieve the length of building. The S. face is somewhat differently designed and well worth notice. The Manor of Quainton came into the possession of this Richard Winwood about 1640. His house was at Denham, on the hillside to the E. of Quainton, but it has now disappeared. The monument to Richard Winwood and his wife—they died in 1688 and 169 $\frac{3}{4}$ —is at the W. end of the S. aisle of the church. Richard Winwood is fantastically dressed in armour, with a flowing wig; his wife, behind, is gazing at him. The effigies are life-size and executed with much skill, as are the other parts of the monument, but its affectations spoil it as a work of art. Above is a helmet and coronet, and the Winwood arms—the remnant of an earlier age. The church is an interesting building, noticeable for the height of the interior, which has five arches on each side between the nave and aisles, supported by octagonal pillars Dec. This church is a good example of Dec. work. P. windows have been inserted in the nave. Notice a fine S. porch P. In the arch between the N. aisle and the N. transept is the lower part of a screen, containing four compartments on which figures are painted; it is late 15th-century work. The upper part of the font is of the same period. Quainton possesses, besides the monument already mentioned, a realistic one, by Roubiliac, to Mr Justice Dormer, his wife

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and son (father and son died in the same year, 1726), which is now in the tower.

In the wall of the S. aisle is a monument (1637) to Dr Richard Brett and his wife—two figures kneeling at a desk and a lengthy Latin inscription. There are other monuments of no special importance, chiefly to the Pigott family, who have lived at Doddershall House in this parish since 1503. The most important of the brasses is that to John Spence, Rector, 1485, on N. wall of chancel. A little to the W., outside altar rails, is the effigy of Mistress Marjery Verney (1509); to the left is a very small brass of a woman, probably that of Elizabeth Chester (1593), to the right is a group of children. Within the sedilia are effigies of Joan Plessi, 1360, with inscription in French, of John Lewis, Rector, 1422, and of Richard Iwardby, 1510. In the rectory the drawing-room contains much fine woodwork, one end has oak panelling (c. 1500); the staircase is also of carved oak. Lipscombe (1773-1846), the historian of Buckinghamshire, was born here.

Quarrendon (Aylesbury, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.).—The Manor House and Chapel of St Peter were at one time of considerable importance. All that now remains are two pointed arches and piers on S., and one arch and a piece of wall on N., and a few bits of masonry.

The Lees of Quarrendon were an ancient family. Of these, Sir Henry Lee, R.G. (1530-1610), was best known. He built a new mansion and entertained Queen Elizabeth with great magnificence for two days in August 1592. Of his imposing funeral at Quarrendon, the long

QUARRENDON—RADNAGE

procession, the banners and the chargers, one may read in a MS. in the British Museum adorned with drawings of his helmet, flags and coffin (Add. MSS. 14417, fo. 22, p. 46). The splendid monument to Sir Henry Lee and some others were in existence up to 1830. The contrast of the forlorn ruins in the low meadows with the former glories of the place is suggestive. The ruins are reached by a cartway from Bicester Road close to the one-mile stone from Aylesbury right hand (E.), or by a footpath near a stone bridge $\frac{1}{2}$ mile further, or by a rough road from the Winslow Road, 1 mile from Aylesbury left (W.)

Radclive (Buckingham, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is agreeably grouped in the valley W. of Buckingham, round a tributary of the Ouse. The church (o), on N. side of the village, half a mile from the main road from Buckingham to Tingewick, is an interesting little building. It contains much old material reset. The S. doorway is Transitional N. It has banded shafts, foliated capitals, and a band into which a species of toothed and cable ornament is ingeniously worked. The chancel arch has foliated capitals and toothed ornament. There are fragments of old glass and a 13th-century font.

The hamlet of Chackmore in this parish is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Radclive.

Radnage ($4\frac{1}{2}$ m. West Wycombe Station) consists of scattered groups of cottages, one of which, known as the City, is nearly a mile from the church, and is delightfully on the verge of the Chilterns. Radnage is not mentioned in Domesday, but the manor was granted to the Knights

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Templars in the 12th century. The church, striking in its original simplicity, stands with the vicarage to the west on the side of a hill below Bledlow Ridge, and is surrounded on three sides by trees, but to the south commands a charming and extensive view. It is a small building with a chancel, nave, central tower and south porch. The lower part of tower, completely dividing nave and chancel, contains a blocked Norman doorway and window. The upper stage is E.E., the E. window, piscina walls and arches in same style. Most of the other windows are good Dec. The nave has a handsome P. roof. In the porch is the old wooden bier, with the date 1699 carved on it. There are two brasses, one to the memory of William Este, his wife and children (1534), and the other to William Syer, "parson of Radnedg" and his wife Jane (1605).

Ravenstone (Olney, 3 m.) is a small village on the side of a small grassy valley. In days gone by it was a place of some importance, for Henry III. founded a priory of the order of St Augustine, which existed till the dissolution of the religious houses in the 16th century, when the building was demolished. In 1587 Queen Elizabeth gave all the property of the late priory, which in the meantime had been granted to Cardinal Wolsey, and all the Manor of Ravenstone, to Sir Moyle Finch. The Finches were an unusually able family, and its fame culminated in Heneage Finch, 1621-1682, second son of Sir Moyle, who became Lord Chancellor of England and Earl of Nottingham, whose splendid tomb gives importance to Ravenstone Church, which is a considerable

RAVENSTONE—RICHINGS PARK

building, with a nave, S. aisle, clerestory and chancel, the S. aisle being prolonged to the exterior E. end and a W. tower. The N. wall of nave is without windows. The general style internally is E.E., the pillar having a square abacus and rude foliage; but the windows are much later, there being a fairly good P. window at S.W. of S. aisle. The clerestory windows are of same character. The font is early 13th-century work; the large flat panels were probably at one time painted. The E.E. sedilia and piscina and the 17th-century woodwork in the chancel are noteworthy. The tomb of Heneage Finch is in S. aisle at E. end. It is formed by a semi-recumbent life-size figure in white marble on an oblong base, on which is a long Latin inscription—

“ortus illis parentibus
Quos vel sequi nobile est, antecellere Hervicum :
Illustravit tam clara Nomina, imo luce sua obscuravit,”

it begins, and then for many lines points out the characteristics of the able, discreet, and upright lawyer who took so large a share in the parliamentary life of the reign of Charles II. Above the figure, supported by black marble pillars, is an elaborate canopy, the whole forming a remarkable example of the art of the 17th century. At the N.E. side of the churchyard will be observed a double row of brick almshouses for six old men and six old women. This hospital was founded by Lord Chancellor Finch, and adds to the interest of Ravenstone.

Richings Park lies to the S.W. of Iver. It has

some interesting associations, for it was the property in the 18th century of Allen, first Earl Bathurst (1684-1775), one of the famous group of noblemen and men of letters who are inseparably connected with the reign of Queen Anne. A pleasant picture of Lord Bathurst in his old age, pleasing and ready to be pleased, will be found in the third of Sterne's Letters to Eliza.

Risborough, Princes (station on Great Western Railway, Oxford and Aylesbury branch)—Domesday, Riseberg—1 m. S.W. of church, is a small town near the break in the Chilterns, which to the S.W. forms the Wycombe Valley. The manor was part of the royal demesne, and in the 13th and early part of 14th centuries it had become known as Great Risborough. In 1342 it is denominated Risborough Comitis, a name which it has since retained, and which probably arose from the fact of the connection of the manor with the Sovereign or his family, since Henry III. gave the lordship of this manor to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and it was held by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, till his death in 1300, when it reverted to the Crown. It is a pleasant little place, with a small market-house in the centre. In the street to the W. nearly opposite the church is a picturesque group of old houses, and others may be noted, as one which may be seen on the N. side of the church. This has a nave, two aisles and chancel, a square tower with a small steeple, which replaced one which fell in 1802. The church was completely restored in 1867. It was an E.E. church, and two windows on N. side of chancel show its original

RISBOROUGH—MONKS RISBOROUGH

character, but the others are Dec. The E. window is modern. Note the piscina and sedile Dec. in S. wall. This church is not, however, equal in interest to others on the N. edge of the Chilterns.

Risborough, Monks, or Priors (Princes Risborough, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m.; Wendover, G.C. and M., 5 m.).—The name is derived from the fact that shortly before the year 1000 the manor was given to the church of Canterbury. At the time of the Survey it belonged to Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury. Perhaps the most attractive place on the northern margin of the Chilterns, the village lies on the N. side of the Upper Icknield Way, and is formed of a group of delightful old cottages, some being thatched and several half timbered, among pleasant gardens. The church (o) is at the N. side of the village, and the rectory, a picturesque red house, at the E. side of the churchyard. The church is a fine and instructive building, from the manner in which the earlier are seen giving way to later styles. On the tower are visible the marks of the pointed roof, which has been replaced by a flatter one. The only remnant of the N. church is the font which is very fine, being fluted, with a flowing loop ornament round the margin. The tower at W. end is Dec., and much resembles that at Bledlow. The W. front is especially noticeable. The most important windows are P., for a country church remarkably fine, that in N. transept is especially good. The church has two aisles, chancel and a N. transept. There is a fine rood screen, late 15th century, with nine panels

on which are in colours the heads of nine prophets. The remaining three were stolen by workmen many years ago. At S. side of chancel, close to communion rails, is a well-preserved brass of a priest, without an inscription, regarded as that of Robert Blundell, Rector, 1360, and at E. end of S. aisle are two half effigies of a man and his wife (c. 1460), and at the foot of the lectern a brass showing two sons and five daughters, the remains of a larger memorial. Some old tiles by the lectern and in N. aisle should be noted, as also the remains of a Dec. niche in N. aisle. Beyond the church, which is pleasantly shaded, are seen meadows and some picturesque farm buildings, and in the intervening field a square 16th-century dovecot, recently restored, having on the N. side the remains of a richly-carved doorway.

St Leonards (Wendover, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a hamlet of considerable elevation, but without interest. The church is practically modern.

Saunderton (Princes Risborough, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Saunderton, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.; this station, by its name, is calculated to be a snare to the unwary visitor) is a quiet little place. The church (rebuilt 1888-1891 with the old materials) has not much architectural interest. The font, with some good though much worn work, has a circular base, cable ornament, and fluted bowl, surmounted by rude flowers, showing the very early origin of the original church. There are two E.E. blocked doorways, but the character of the building is chiefly Dec. On S. wall of nave is the remnant of a brass, the half effigy of a woman, much worn, the inscription lost, the date supposed to be about 1430.

ST LEONARDS—SHENLEY

Seer Green is a small village, formerly a chapelry of Farnham Royal, with a small modern church. It is about 2 m. W. of Chalfont St Giles.

Shabbington (Thame, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.).—This is the third of a group of low-lying villages (*see* Worminghall and Ickford). It is of fair size. The church (o) is at the S. end of village, with an attractive view across meadows of the Thame to the line of the Chiltern Hills. The chancel is good Dec., with 14th-century windows; the doorways plain Dec., and there is an ancient octagonal, cup-shaped font. A niche and 15th-century piscina are worth notice.

Shalstone (Buckingham, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is the first of three villages which lie on the upper ground above the Ouse valley, between Buckingham and the Northamptonshire border. The church has been rebuilt. In the N. aisle is a brass effigy commemorating Dame Susan Kyngeston, 1540, the only brass in the county to a "vowess."

Shenley, or Shenley Mansell (Church End, $3\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Bletchley) is a village with two ends and no middle. Shenley Brook End—picturesque cottages and farms about a little brook—is a mile from Shenley Church End, where the church on a height overlooks the most important part of the village. Note in approaching the village from Brook End the almshouses of grey stone with tiled roofs, and on a tablet the date 1654. They are suggestive, because, if it were not for the date, they might be supposed to be more modern, and they indicate how ancient are a large number of the humbler dwellings of Bucks. Some of the thatched and half-timbered houses of Shenley may be older than the almshouses.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The church is interesting. The tower is in the centre, and there is a nave, chancel and two aisles. The tower (P.) is now out of proportion to the rest of the building, but at one time the roof of both nave and chancel was high pitched, and reduced the tower to its proper proportion. The turret, higher than the tower, which is rare, should be noticed. There is scarcely a feature in the church which is not valuable. Note the Dec. W. door, with excellently-preserved heads on dripstone, and windows, the side windows in same style, and the beautiful Trans. N. to E.E. windows of the chancel. The five-light P. east window is effective from the interior. In the nave Trans. N. or E.E. pillars on the S. side are noticeable, as is the E.E. font, with trefoiled panels and some fine corbels. At the E. end of S. aisle the monument to Thomas Stafford (died 1607) is very good work. The chief detail is the recumbent effigy in white marble of a man on his left side in armour with ruff. Below are, in high relief, a woman (his wife), to her left are four men, and to the right three women—one woman and three men hold skulls, and all kneel on cushions; there is more skill in the grouping of these figures than is usually seen. This monument is pleasing, because the upper portion is simple—only an inscription, above which are the family arms. In the chancel is another interesting monument to Edmund Ashfyld, knight, 1577, and his wife,—a tomb with three slender columns—one of jasper and two of porphyry. Above in a pediment, with minute ornaments, are, among others, remarkable heads

SHENLEY—SIMPSON

of lions. The whole is more like Italian than English work.

To the W. of the village, on S. side of a lane, are some ancient earthworks, but it is impossible to state the period to which they belong.

Sherrington (Newport Pagnell, London and North Western Railway, $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. ; Olney, Midland Railway, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a village of some size, part of which lies each side of the main road between Newport Pagnell and Olney. It has some character from the number of thatched white and substantial cottages and houses. The church, restored in 1870, is seen on an eminence to the N. of this road, close to the upper part of the village. It is a fine church, in a fine situation. The tower rises from between the nave, with N. and S. aisles and clerestory, and the chancel. Internally the building is lofty and well-proportioned—circular pillars on N., and octagonal on S. The W. window of five lights, P., is excellent, as are the S. windows, Dec., of nave. The sedilia, S. wall, showing marks of Dec. and P. in independent connection—the P. work being placed above Dec. niches—is interesting. Note also the Dec. piscina and the font, P., with figure below the top and upright ornamentation below. A custom exists of the church bell being rung daily at one o'clock.

Simpson—Domesday, Sevinstone—(Bletchley, London and North Western Railway, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.) consists chiefly of a few cottages by the roadside, and at S. end is the church, with a background of water meadows. It is cruciform, with some good Dec. windows on S. side. A modern window

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

has been inserted at E. end. Part of the tower is of the original 13th-century church.

Slapton (Cheddington, London and North-Western, 2 m.) lies in the low country at the E. side of the county. The church has little interest except for the font, 13th century, and brasses to Reginald Manser (1462), James Tornay (1519) and two wives, and Thomas Knyghton (1529).

Slough.—This hamlet of Upton-cum-Chalvey (*see*) has developed since the opening of the Great Western Railway in 1838 into a large town. The long and wide main street from E. to W. includes the former old coaching road from London to Bath. The modern parish church (St Mary) was built in 1835-37. On the Windsor Road, outside the town, is Ivy House, where Sir Wm. Herschel (1738-1822) lived, and carried on his astronomical researches. Slough is chiefly important to the stranger as a point from which to gain the picturesque and interesting country to the E., comprising Burnham, Stoke Poges and other villages.

Soulbury (Leighton Buzzard, 3 m.) is on the S. side of a hill between the Ouse valley and vale of Aylesbury. The church (o) is a fine building, and has many good Dec. and P. features. It was partly rebuilt early in the 16th century, the chancel and nave are thus quite different in style. There are many monuments inside the church to the ancient family of Lovett, who became possessors

SLAPTON—STEWKLEY

of the manor in 1304, and are still the chief land-owners in the parish. The best of these monuments is that to Robert Lovett, S. side of chancel, erected in 1701. He is in armour, kneeling at a desk; opposite to him his wife. Note on floor of nave the brass effigies of John Turnay and his wife, Agnes (1502), and one commemorating Alice Mallet, that of her husband is lost. S. of the village in an undulating park is Liscombe House (not shown), the old seat of the Lovetts. The present building dates from about 1630, but there was apparently an older building to the S. One side is a chapel. A chantry was founded here by Robert Lovett in 1301, but the present building was erected c. 1350. There are many old portraits in the house—Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough (Kneller), Grotius, Nell Gwynn, and others.

Stantonbury, properly Stantonbarry—the family of Barri held the manor in time of Henry II.—is a small parish with a score or two inhabitants. The church (disused) is $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Wolverton Station. This parish now forms part of the ecclesiastical district of New Bradwell (*see* Bradwell). The church is small and ancient. The chancel arch is important, being good N. work. The windows are Dec., the font is octagonal and possibly 12th century.

Stewkley (Leighton Buzzard, London and North-Western, $4\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a straggling village, with many old cottages, on the high land to the W. of the valley of the Ousel. The church (o), however, is one of the best and most complete Norman buildings in England. It has come down to us unimpaired, and is an admirable example of the style both in

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structure and detail. A massive tower, with interlaced arches and pinnacles of a much later date, is the predominant external feature, rising from between the nave and the chancel. The W. door, which is deeply recessed, is the other most striking external feature. It is marked by a profusion of zigzag ornament, which is the main ornament both inside and outside the church. The doorway should be compared with the W. doorway at Iffley, to which, however, it is inferior in variety of ornament. The S. porch is a restoration by Street in 1862. Internally the effect of this zigzag ornament round the arches of the nave is remarkably harmonious. Stewkley church belongs to a late period of Norman architecture, having been built in the reign of Henry II., about 1154, by Geoffrey, son of Geoffrey de Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer to Henry I., together with several other churches in other counties; it was given to Kenilworth Priory by the second Geoffrey, the work having been done under the direction of the canons of Kenilworth. The font is also Norman.

Stoke Common (Slough, Great Western Railway, 2 m. from S. side of common) is the largest of the commons of Buckinghamshire, being 200 acres in extent. It is delightfully situated on an upland above Stoke Poges and Wexham to the S., and having the secluded village of Fulmer in a hollow at the N.E. corner. At the N.W. corner one road leads to Burnham Beeches, and another to Hedgerley.

Stoke Goldington (Newport Pagnell, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.)—Domesday, Stoches — the Goldingtons were a



STEWKLEY CHURCH

STOKE HAMMOND

later family—is a considerable and striking village on either side of the Newport Pagnell and Northampton main road, with some picturesque cottages. It has a comfortable appearance; and it is not easy to realise the description of this part of the county in 1773 by one of the ministers of this place: “The country is pleasant; the villages large and populous; but the people poor, ignorant and idle. The highest wages of the labourer in harvest time is only 1s. 6d. per day, without meat. Half of the inhabitants have little more knowledge, save the art of lacemaking, than they were born with. There are no schools for the poor, and they have no means of instruction but at church, where the greater part never come. Those that have any religion are almost all Methodists and fanatics of one sort or other. Taking the whole country I think it remarkably poor and ignorant.”

The church is conspicuous on a height to W. of the village, by the side of the old Manor House, now a farm. The view from the churchyard over the village, with the foreground of sloping wooded meadows, is very pleasant. The church has nave (12th century), two aisles (the S. extending the entire length of church) chancel and W. tower. It is a good, but not specially noticeable, church. The lofty tower arch (15th century) is striking; the piers of the nave are E.E. There is a plain and ancient N. font.

Stoke Hammond (Leighton Buzzard, 4 m.; Bletchley, 3 m.)—Domesday, Stockes—Hammond was son of Manfelin, Baron of Wolverton, in 12th century, and Lord of Stoke, hence the second name of the place.—This is rather a picturesque

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

village, partly from the way it lies on the side of a small hill. There are still some old timbered and thatched cottages. The church (o), a cruciform building, is at N. of village, on high ground, with an agreeable view over the Ousel valley. The S. door is approached through an avenue of limes. With the exception of two pretty Dec. windows in chancel, the windows are now all good P., though rather too large for the structure. Note the 15th-century glass in N. window of nave and the E.E. font—circular, with four small pillars.

The two yew trees in the churchyard were planted in 1687.

Stoke Mandeville (Metropolitan) has many quaint, old thatched cottages. A short walk through pleasant meadows, entered by a wicket gate at S. extremity of village, leads to the disused parish church, charmingly situated but fast falling into ruin. Note in the chancel a piscina and 15th-century window, and a 14th-century doorway in N. wall of nave. The modern church, at opposite end of village, should be visited for the sake of the old font and admirable Elizabethan monument removed from the old church. In a recess is a recumbent marble effigy, with traces of colouring, of a young girl in an attitude of repose, her head supported by her left hand. Two babes in swaddling clothes complete the group. These represent the three children of Edmund Brudenell, who held the Manor of Stoke, and by whom this monument was erected (about 1584). John Hampden possessed property in this parish, and it was in respect of the tax for ship-money on

STOKE MANDEVILLE—STOKE POGES

this that the legal proceedings (1635-38), which are so famous an event in the constitutional history of England, were taken.

Stokenchurch (Aston Rowant, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.; West Wycombe Station, 6 m.) is on one of the highest points of the Chilterns. The church has a chancel, nave, N. transept, modern N. aisle and a low W. tower. The chancel arch, with a squint on N. side, is fine Transitional Norman. In the chancel, on N. wall, is an Easter recess, and in the S. wall a well-preserved and good Dec. piscina. Note the unusual setting. The chancel and nave have been restored, the roof of the latter is of 15th century. Above the arch, at east end of nave, is the ancient entrance to the rood loft. The N. transept, font and lower part of tower are P. The S. porch has an E.E. doorway, with dog-tooth ornament on the dripstone. In the chancel are two late brasses to members of the Tipping family (1632), and affixed to the chancel arch, N. and S., is one to Robert Morle (1410), and another to Robert Morle (1415), with inscriptions in French, as often found in the case of knights in the 15th century.

Stoke Poges—Domesday, *Stoches* = a stockaded enclosure; *Poges* is derived from a family of that name who owned the manor in the 14th century —(Slough, Great Western Railway, 2 m. from the church) is unrivalled in the union of natural beauty with literary and personal associations. It would be difficult to find more charming and characteristic English scenery than that of which the church (open summer 10 till 5, other times key at Rectory) is the centre. It is on the W,

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or left-hand side of, and a short distance from, the road from Slough to Stoke Common and Gerrard's Cross, a little above the gate of Stoke Park. The road both above and below the entrance to the church is very attractive, from the old overhanging elms by which it is shaded. The village of Stoke is a mile N. of the church, just below Stoke Common. It extends from the main road to Stoke Court. The church was probably built on the site of an older church. It is a remarkable building, with a singular old-world appearance. It consists of a nave, two aisles, chancel and tower at the N. side. At the E. end of the S. aisle is the Hastings Chapel, darkened by a quaint gallery. This part of the church is much later than the other portions, having been built about 1557. The oldest parts are the N. wall of the chancel and the piers of the nave; the latter are N., which shows that the church must, in some form, have been in existence as early as the reign of Henry I. (1100). The tower is a good example of E.E. work, but all the other details are much later, and have replaced earlier work. The E. window, for example, is P., and the other windows are debased Gothic. Near the E. end of the wall of the S. aisle is a piscina, which shows that this portion of the church was at one time a chapel. The font is a good example of simple Dec. work, having on the bowl the four-leaved flower. Note on the N. wall of the chancel a canopy — Dec. work of the 14th century — over a now vacant niche, which probably once held, or was intended to hold, a recumbent statue of Sir John Molyns, a man of

STOKE POGES

much importance in his day. Within the altar rails near the N. wall are two well-preserved brasses of Sir William Molyns (1425) and his widow, Lady Marjory, while close by are the later brasses of Edmund Hampdyn, Esq. (c. 1570), and his wife. On the N. side of the church is a cloistered entrance, containing some old stained glass—some in the N. windows of the 16th century, and some is evidently Flemish. This glass has no connection with the church, and was collected and placed in the building by a former owner of Stoke Park. Through this entrance a kind of room, which is under the tower, is reached. It is now used as the pew of the owner of Stoke Park. It contains some interesting carved chairs said to have been the property of Thomas Penn, for whose son, John, the present mansion in the Park—a fine view of which is obtained from the churchyard looking W.—was built by Wyatt in 1789.

Externally the singularly large soft-toned tiled roof of the S. aisle is conspicuous. The S. porch is equally picturesque and interesting. The "ivy-mantled tower" stands as it did in the middle of the 18th century, but the wooden steeple was replaced in 1900 by one new but similar. In the churchyard, close to the E. window, is the unsightly tomb of Gray's mother. The inscription to "Dorothy Gray, the careful tender mother of many children, of whom one alone had the misfortune to survive her," was written by Gray himself, who, though he died (1771) at Cambridge, was buried in this grave. Of the *Elegy* it is impossible not to be reminded whether within or without the church.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

A conspicuous but yet rather a vague figure in the early history of Stoke Poges is Sir John de Molines (or Molyms), able, active, and ever seeking his own enrichment. By his own energy he came to play an important part in the political affairs of the reign of Edward III., and after 1330 received numerous grants from the king, to whom he was "valettus" and treasurer of the chamber—at once soldier and civil servant. After numerous public services he incurred Edward's displeasure in 1340, and his lands were forfeited. But he soon regained favour, and not only recovered his forfeited property, but received many additional grants. Disliked by many for his rapacity, his life continued contentious and active to his death, which probably occurred in 1362. It was characteristic of Molines that by his connection with Stoke he increased his wealth, for he married Egidia, cousin and heiress of Margaret, daughter of Robert Poges of Stoke Poges, a knight of the shire in 1300. Margaret was the wife of John Manduit of Somerford, Wilts. The manor passing through two generations of descendants was at length vested in his great-granddaughter, Alianore, who married Robert Hungerford, Lord Moleyns and Hungerford, and Stoke Poges thus passed into another family, and again into another, when Mary, sole daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Hungerford, married Edward, Lord Hastings, K.B.

To the N. of the church, and in the Park. the fine Tudor chimneys forming part of the old Manor House rise from among the trees. Now well restored, it was built in 1555 by the



STOKE POGES CHURCH

Earl of Huntingdon, and was for a time occupied by some of the Hatton family, but never by Sir Christopher Hatton, though Gray alludes to him in his *Long Story*—

“ Full oft within the spacious walls,
When he had fifty winters o’er him,
My brave Lord Keeper led the brawls;
The seal and maces danc’d before him.”

About 1600, Sir Edward Coke became lessee of the Manor under the Crown. During that tenure, and when he was Attorney-General in 1601, he entertained Queen Elizabeth at Stoke.

It was not, however, till 1621 that the manor was actually granted by King James to Coke, but from that time it was his country home, and here among his “much honoured allies and friends of Buckinghamshire,” as he says in the Preface to his *Institutes*, the old man lived until his death in 1634. His daughter married Sir John Villiers, who was created Baron Villiers of Stoke Poges and Lord Purbeck. Their descendants sold the property about 1720 to the Gayer family. Four years later Edmund Halsey bought it, and his daughter, who became the wife of Sir R. Temple, afterwards Lord Cobham, died here in 1760, when Thomas Penn, second son of William Penn, bought the manor, and his descendants held it till 1848, the present house in Stoke Park being built by John Penn in 1789. A column, with a statue of Coke, was placed in the Park to his memory in 1800 by John Penn. From the pathway behind the church which leads to the Manor House it forms a striking feature, rising at the end of a broad avenue of trees. Still further

north, quite hidden among the trees, and at the S.W. corner of Stoke village, bounded on the E. by the road, stands Stoke Court as it is now called, which contains some portion of West End House, where Gray lived with his uncle, Mr Rogers, and after his death with his mother and aunt, from 1742-53. It was at the beginning of this stay in 1742 that the *Elegy* was commenced. Gray returned to work upon it at Cambridge in 1749, and he finished it at Stoke Poges in 1750.

It was during the same prolific year (1742) that the charming but pessimistic *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College* was written, which was doubtless the result of many summer walks, since before Gray lived at West End House he used to visit his uncle by marriage, Mr Antrobus, at Burnham, which is near at hand. Nor should the year 1751 be forgotten, when Lady Cobham was owner of the Manor House, and with her niece, Miss Speed, and her friend, Lady Schaub, who were staying with her, became the heroines of Gray's *Long Story*. Persuaded by their hostess, the two ladies determined on the strength of a common friend to make Gray's acquaintance, and so one afternoon they walked over the fields—we can follow the same path now—to West End House to call upon him.

“A brace of warriors, not in buff,
But rustling in their silks and tissues.”

Gray was doubtless the happier for the friendship of these sprightly ladies.

At the N. side of the church in the adjoining meadow is an unsightly monument to Gray,

placed there by John Penn. Still further to the N. is the red-brick hospital or almshouse, built by Thomas Penn, 1765.

Baylis House, on right of road to Slough, was once the country-house of Lord Chancellor Rosslyn or Loughborough, as was his first and better-known title—the self-seeking “wary Wedderburn,” who from a Radical became suddenly a supporter of Lord North, and finally Lord Chancellor in 1792 in the Administration of the younger Pitt—here he died in 1805.

Stone (Aylesbury, $2\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a straggling village on the Oxford road—the parish also contains the hamlet of Bishopstone to the S.E. The walker from Aylesbury should cross the footbridge over the railway at the station, and take the path through the meadows across the steeplechase course, the grand-stand being away on the right. In the next field the path divides, that on the left leading to Bishopstone. Note the charming view of the distant Chilterns across the intervening valley. The right-hand path must be followed till it reaches the lane. In this note an old farmhouse on the right-hand side, which joins the main road at the two-mile stone. The other route is to follow the main road to the old entrance of Hartwell (right hand, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.), and then take the pathway across the park. This is the shorter of the two walks.

The church (o) stands on an artificial mound, with a delightful view to the S. It is cruciform, with nave, N. aisle, two transepts and chancel. The tower at W. end is Dec., with a good cornice of masks, and doorway and window at W.,

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which are also good ; it is terminated by gables. The S. porch is Dec., but the doorway is late N. and very attractive, having two columns with small capitals and zigzag arch. The piers and arches of the N. aisle are apparently contemporaneous with the doorway. The chancel is E.E., with an E. window of three lancets ; the S. transept has a window of the same character, but that with two lights in the N. transept is later, and shows very well the transition to the Dec. style. Some Dec. windows have been inserted in the S. wall of nave, and P. in the N. aisle. The font, N., is remarkable. Among interlaced bands, having a small bead ornament, appear human heads, animals and fishes. It was placed here in 1845, and originally belonged to the church of Hampstead Norris, Berks. (See *Records of Bucks*, vol. ix., p. 193.) The church was consecrated in 1273.

Four small brass effigies, in fairly good condition, are in the nave, just below the chancel steps. Those on left looking west represent William Gurney (1472) and his wife ; those on the right Thos. Gorney (1520) and his wife, Agnes. The inscription to whom is a palimpsest, the reverse side being inscribed to Christopher Thorpe, who died in 1514.

Stony Stratford (Wolverton, 2 m.) is a small market town on the Watling Street, consisting of one long street and a market-square. Before destructive fires in 1738 and 1842, it contained a good deal that was interesting—one of Queen Eleanor's crosses, a mediæval church, of which the P. tower is left, and a chantry chapel founded

STONY STRATFORD—STOWE

about 1450, on the site of which St Giles' Church now stands, also with a P. tower. Roman remains have been found here indicative of the existence of some kind of Romano-British village.

Stowe consists of Stowe House and the small church adjoining. Stowe House is 3 m. N. of Buckingham. A long straight road between a wide avenue of poor trees leads to the Corinthian arch, designed by Thomas Pitt, Lord Camelford. The house (916 feet in length) is seen a mile away. Its appearance at a distance is not imposing. It remains with its vast pleasure grounds a melancholy relic of 18th-century taste and magnificence—probably more royalties have been entertained here than at any other house in England. The main part of the present house was built by Sir Richard Temple about 1660, but the various classical additions were made by Richard, first Viscount Cobham, at the beginning of the 18th century. The grounds are filled with all sorts of pseudo-classical erections, such as the Temples of Venus and of Ancient Virtue. This odd assortment, begun by the first Lord Cobham, was added to by his successors, the Earls Temple and Dukes of Buckingham. To describe them all would require many pages; even Walpole, with his love of a kind of classical architecture, thought classicism had here been overdone. "Twice a day," he wrote to Conway in 1770, "we made a pilgrimage to every heathen temple in that province that they call a garden," and more to the same effect. The most noticeable rooms in the house itself (neither house nor grounds are open to the public)

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are the Marble Saloon, which forms the centre of the building, the State Drawing-Room and State Dining-Room on E., and the Music Room and Library on W. The house is, in fact, a splendid palace without royalty. "Capability" Brown, the landscape gardener, worked here from 1737-50 before he became a general designer of gardens, but the gardens were chiefly planned by Kent before his time.

The famous Stowe MS. were purchased by the Marquis of Buckingham in 1803 from a person named Astle, and after some changes of ownership were bought by the British Museum in 1883. On the death of the third Duke of Buckingham (1889) the title became extinct, and Stowe became the property of the Duke's eldest daughter, the Baroness Kinloss. The small church has little interest. It has been much altered, but it contains two fair Dec. E. windows, several tablets and inscriptions to various Dukes of Buckingham and other owners of Stowe, and monumental brasses to (1) Alice Saundres, c. 1469 (floor of chancel, S.); (2) Thomas Temple and wife, Hester, 1592 (floor of chancel, S.). Note also in chapel, N. of chancel, at foot of her mother's tomb, the small effigy of Hester Penyston (1612), and the niche (c. 1330) over W. doorway.

N.E. of Stowe House and church, 3 m. on road from Buckingham to Northampton (left hand) is an interesting old house, called Stowe Castle. It has a quadrangle, and the outer walls have been built for defence. It has been restored, but is unique in the county as an example of a semi-fortified country house.



STOWE

STOWE—SWANBOURNE

Swanbourne (London and North-Western Railway, Winslow, $2\frac{3}{4}$ m. ; Bletchley, $6\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is quite an ideal village, and stands on high ground, so that through the trees glimpses of distant fields are gained. The church, the mullioned windows of the Tudor Manor House, and by the roadside, in the opposite direction, the picturesque Deverell's Farm, a stone house built in the form of a cross, with the date 1632, and cottages with black-and-white walls—the whole forms an exceptionally pleasant sight. The church is noticeable for the E.E. chancel, rebuilt in 1863, containing an E.E. double piscina. The tower was rebuilt late in 15th century. There is a good P. window on N. side, but the other windows are Dec. Note an E.E. font, and the 17th-century lectern. In the chancel floor, rather on N. side, are two well-preserved brasses depicting a man in a cloak, and a woman in a broad hat and ruff, a valuable example of contemporary costume. The one represents Thomas Adams, yeoman and freeman of London—

“ Who in prime of youth by bloody thieves was slain,
In Liscombe ground his blood ye grass did staine ”—

his wife, Elizabeth (1626), and four children. There are remains of paintings on N. wall, the subject is the soul before and after death.

On the Aylesbury road is the entrance to Swanbourne Manor, W. of village, the house and estate of Lord Cottesloe. The Manor House, already referred to, belongs to Lord

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Cottesloe, and is inhabited by some of the servants of the estate, so that it can be examined without difficulty.

Taplow — Domesday, Thapeslav — (Great Western Railway) is a large village on the left bank of the Thames, opposite Maidenhead. Quite a large modern district in Taplow has grown up near the station and river. The oldest part stands high and lies to the N., and here a few half-timbered old cottages are a pleasant contrast to the many which are modern and less picturesque. Especially attractive is the Elizabethan farmhouse, next to a house called the Gables, on the right-hand side of the street up the hill northwards from the church. Taplow Court, a fine, and in some parts old, mansion, stands, with fine views over river and woods, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the church, and to the S. of it stood the old church, of which no traces are left. Here in the churchyard some years ago a Saxon barrow, on which stood an ancient yew tree, was opened and examined. Various ancient relics, now in the British Museum, were discovered.

The modern red-brick church, nearly 1 m. from the station, is unsightly, but contains some important monumental brasses. They are now grouped in the floor of the nave close to the chancel steps. On the N. is the small effigy of a priest, Nichole de Aumberdene (1350), within the head of a beautiful floriated cross. S. of this is a remarkable group of figures. The fine effigy of Richard Manfeld (1455), with his maiden sister, Isabel, to his left, and his brother, John, in a shroud, to his right. Still further to the S. are three more

TAPLOW—THORNBOROUGH

effigies, memorials to Thomas Manfeld (1540), and his two wives.

From the station to the river is a mile along a dusty, unattractive road. The wide arch of the stone bridge, which belongs to Berkshire, is an agreeable feature; below is Brunel's immense brick railway arch which was built in 1837-38, one of the largest of this material in existence, and much preferable in appearance to the modern iron bridges. The river from the boat-house by the bridge to Boulter's Lock ($\frac{5}{8}$ m.) on the Bucks side, is unattractive, with low islands of osier beds, and uninteresting buildings. The backwater and mill at Boulter's Lock, with the background of the woods of Taplow Court, is, however, a charming piece of river scenery, while from Boulter's Lock to the grounds of Cliveden (*see*), $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., the hanging woods, varying in colour, and interspersed with immense masses of wild clematis, are unsurpassed in any portion of the Thames. They form part of the Taplow and Cliveden estates.

Tattenhoe is a small parish, with a little church in the fields, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Bletchley, and behind the wood called Howe Park. This church was built in 1540 from the materials of the adjacent Priory of Snelshall. There are remains of old glass in E. window.

Thornborough (Buckingham, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a large village with an attractive bit of village scenery. In its centre a green with stocks and well-grouped cottages, and the church on S. side. It has a W. tower, nave, N. aisle and chancel. There is some Dec. and some P. detail, work having been done from the 13th to the 15th century. The N. arcade of the nave seems to be the oldest part which

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remains. Note a brass of W. Barton and wife (1589).

Thornborough Bridge, about a mile from the village, is the only mediæval bridge in the county. It was originally built in the 14th century, but has been restored from time to time.

Thornton (Stony Stratford, 4 m. ; Buckingham, 4 m.) is only separated from Northamptonshire by the River Ouse. It is a picturesque village enough, and the contiguity of the church and hall makes a pretty picture. Except the tower, P., the church is modern, having been rebuilt in 1850, but several ancient brasses are on the floor of chancel. In the S.E. corner, near the altar, the effigies of a man in armour—Robert Ingylton (1472), and his three wives—and in the N.E. corner the effigy of a woman, Jane St Johns (c. 1557). Near the entrance at W. end should be noted an effigy in alabaster of John Barton (died 1443), and of his wife, Isabella, which are important monuments. Thornton Hall was built in 1850. It has a fine avenue of elms.

Tingewick (Buckingham, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a long village, on either side the main road from Buckingham to Bicester, with some picturesque thatched buildings. The church (o) is on N. side of, and above, the village. The nave is divided from N. aisle by circular pillars with plain arches, which are part of the original 12th-century building ; the S. aisle and piers are modern. In the N. wall is an old N. doorway, blocked. The chancel and W. tower are P.—the latter has a good doorway ; the font is old and plain with octagonal bowl. Note the brass, N. wall of chancel, to Erasmus Williams (1608). It is

THORNTON—TINGEWICK

full of fine drawing, and the various surroundings of the figure are minute, curious and a little affected; at the foot is the inscription.

Towersey (Thame, Oxon., $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.), on the Oxfordshire border, is a small and uninteresting village. The church is a poor building, but has a circular N. font, a good N. piscina, and a carved Jacobean pulpit, hexagonal in form, with an old hour-glass.

Turville (8 m. N.E. Henley; 7 m. N.W. Marlow), with its lovely surroundings of wooded hills, stands at the head of the Hambleton Valley, on the verge of Oxfordshire. The village is small, and, seen from the churchyard, the old picturesque cottages and hills beyond, makes a delightful picture. There were two manors in Turville, one of which, Turville Manor, was sold in 1753 to John Osborn, the famous bookseller, who, in 1742, had purchased the famous Harley library for £13,000. Turville Park was once the seat of Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst. The house was built in the middle of 17th century.

The church is a good specimen of a small country church of mixed styles. It has a nave, chancel, vestry, S. porch. The tower at W. end (P.) is of flint, very massive, with a brickwork parapet. The whole church was judiciously restored in 1900. The steep roof of nave is early 14th century. The N. and S. doorways are Norman, with an E.E. arch inserted in each; the font is Norman on a modern base; and in the wall of nave, to E. of S. porch, are remains of a Norman window in flint. The chancel has been restored, there is a small Dec. piscina in S. wall.

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In the vestry is a small Dec. window, removed from the chancel. The arches E. and W. of nave are plain E.E. Near the W. door of the tower there is a fine, probably 13th-century, stone coffin.

Turweston — (Brackley, Northamptonshire, $\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is an unexpectedly picturesque village, close to the borders of Northamptonshire, in a rather uninteresting agricultural, but capital hunting country. The church is extremely interesting internally. The piers and arches of N. aisle are pure N. Those on the S. are Trans. N., and show the development towards E.E. The chancel shows E.E. characteristics, but has a P. E. window and good E.E. arch; most of the other windows are Dec. throughout. Note a Dec. niche and an E.E. piscina in chancel; also at E. end of N. aisle a monument depicting two figures kneeling at a desk. The background is coloured, and the inscription is quaint, commemorating Simon Heynes (1628).

Within the communion rails are three brass effigies, on N. side, in excellent preservation, of a priest, and on S. side of Thomas Grene and his wife (1470). The large house at N. end of churchyard is the Manor House, built early in the 17th century.

Twyford (Marsh Gibbon Station, 2 m.) is a small village now close to the Great Central Railway. The church (o), founded in 1207, but with a good deal of late work and a good P. roof is well worth a visit, on account especially of (1) S. doorway, N. with beaked ornaments and stars and flowers; (2) circular font with pillars late N.; (3) remnant of stone effigy (priest

TURWESTON—TYRINGHAM

under Dec. canopy in S. wall; (4) screen, restored; (5) recumbent statue of knight in chain armour in S. aisle; (6) at E. end elaborate monument to Viscount Wenman (died 1640); (7) in the chancel the brass effigies of (*a*) John Everden, Rector, c. 1413 (half length); (*b*) in S. aisle on altar tomb, one finely preserved, of Thomas Giffard, 1550 (palimpsest).

Tyler's Green, a hamlet of High Wycombe, created an ecclesiastical parish in 1863, has a modern church.

Tyringham (Domesday, Telingham, later Tedlingham), though a parish has no village. The church (3 m. Newport Pagnell, London and North Western Railway) is beautifully placed in the park of Tyringham Hall, on a gentle rise above the Ouse, which here flows through the park. The view from the churchyard, of the bridge, water and trees is delightful, as is that from the bridge, a classical structure, reminding one of Vanbrugh's work at Castle Howard. The only noteworthy part of the church is the lower portion of the tower, which is N., but the rest of the building is modern and unimportant. On the E. wall of chantry are two brasses—the effigy of the man depicts John Tyringham, a Knight, dressed in a tabard decorated with the St Andrew's Cross; that of the woman commemorates Mary (died 1508), wife of Anthony Catesby, and daughter of John Tyringham. The Tyringhams possessed the manor for centuries—having taken the name of the place as their family name—but the male branch came to an end in 1685. Tyringham House is seen in the trees to the N.W. of the

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church. It was built in 1792, the old building which had stood for several centuries, "a large and venerable mansion on the banks of the Ouse," as it was described by Richard Cumberland in the 17th century, being pulled down.

Upton-cum-Chalvey (Windsor, 2 m.; Slough Station, 1 m.) is a scattered village, now practically part of Slough (*see*). At the Conquest the manor of Upton (Domesday, Opetone) was granted by William to Hugh de Beauchamp, whose son gave it to Merton Convent, Surrey.

Bulstrode Park and House (*see*) lie in this parish, and numerous brasses to the Bulstrode family are in the church (St Lawrence), a small Norman structure. Note here a famous yew tree said to be as old as the church itself.

The new parish church in Slough was built in 1835, and St Lawrence's Church at Upton allowed to fall almost into ruin, but in 1850 it was restored and enlarged. It consists of chancel, central tower, nave and modern S. aisle. In the chancel the Norman vaulting to the modern roof is admirable. At the restoration traces of the original colouring were found, and these have been reproduced. Note in the S. wall the remarkable piscina; on the S. wall of tower a small sculptured mutilated statue in tinted alabaster, representing the Holy Trinity (c. 1400); also the font, N., and a curious old alms box. In the E. wall of chancel S. aisle, is the old arch, on each side of it are two pointed arches (also removed from E. end of nave). That on the left is beautifully carved in wood, in excellent preservation, with three E.E. dog-tooth mouldings. In

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY—WADDES DON

the tower is a monument to Sir William Herschel, who is buried beneath it. Several well-preserved brasses are on E. wall of the S. aisle—one a female in a shroud, kneeling, commemorates Agnes Bulstrode (1472)—an inscription in Hebrew belonging to some other brass is under it. Below this are effigies representing Edward Bulstrode (1599)—the armour he is wearing is a good example of the period—his wife, Cecile, and their four sons and six daughters. Beneath the pointed arch to the right is an earlier brass to Edward Bulstrode (Esquire for the body with Kings Henry VII. and Henry VIII., 1519), with effigies of two wives, four sons and eight daughters. Note on the exterior, N., the N. doorway, and to left of it traces of a large circular archway.

The tower has sometimes been believed to be the one referred to in Gray's *Elegy*, and not that of Stoke Poges.

Near N. wall is a broken flat tombstone with the inscription, "Here lies the body of Sarah Bramstone, of Eton, Spinster, a person who dared to be just in the reign of George II." But how she gained this reputation we are not told.

There is a modern church at Chalvey, a large village about a mile from Upton.

Verney Junction (G.C. and Met., and London and North Western Railway).—This is a group of comparatively new houses close to Verney Junction Station, among which is a comfortable little hotel. It is a good centre from which to explore all the central and northern parts of the county.

Waddesdon (Waddesdon Manor, G.C. and Met. Railway, 1 m.—pathway across the fields from

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the station to the village) is a unique village on the E. shoulder of Lodge Hill, as it used to be called, on which now stands Waddesdon Manor, its shrubberies bordering one side of the village which is full of model cottages; in the centre is the Waddesdon (Village) Hall (1899). There is an extensive view to the N. and E. over the Vale of Aylesbury from the church, which has been much restored, and has a nave with aisles, chancel, S. porch and massive W. tower. The most interesting parts are five Norman pillars and corresponding arches, which divide the S. aisle from the nave, also the lancet arches on N. side. Note the S. doorway, late Norman, and a good two-light Dec. window in chancel. P. window have been inserted in tower and clerestory. Note the marble pulpit with inlaid mosaic—a fine piece of modern work, but a little out of harmony with the character of the church. Observe some good brasses, especially one on S. side of nave to Sir Roger Dynham (1490). It was found in 1887 at Eythrope, where once stood the Dynham chantry, which contained the tomb and monument of Sir Roger, and which was demolished in 1738. The knight is represented in armour above are three canopies—portions are missing. On the S. side of chancel is the brass effigy of Sir Richard Huntyngham, Rector, 1543, in eucharistic vestments; also the shrouded figure of Hugh Bristowe, Rector, 1548-88, and on the N. side two more effigies—Robert Pygott, and Marye, his wife.

Waddesdon Manor—the house was completed by the late Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in



WADDESDON MANOR

WADDESdon—WALTON

1880—is a conspicuous object from a long distance, the chateau-like building (from designs by a French architect) occupying a striking position; the park and plantations, which now cover land which but twenty-five years ago was fields and hedgerows, extend up the hill to Upper Winchendon. A striking view of the house and park may be obtained from the entrance at the top of Winchendon Hill. House, park and plantations are a really striking creation.

The grounds of the Manor are usually opened to the public in the summer on Tuesday and Thursday.

Walton, suburb of Aylesbury (*see*).

Walton (Bletchley, 3 m.) is a parish without a village. The church and Hall are near each other, to the E. of the main road. The church (o) is a charming little building, perfectly isolated, surrounded by trees among pleasant meadows, and is an excellent example of a small country church in the Dec. style. A plain S. porch and doorway, in their original state, are interesting. The windows and the priest's door in chancel also on S. side should be noticed. On the N. wall of chancel is a quaint and touching little monument to a child, Elizabeth Pyxe, who died in 1617 at the age of eleven. It consists of six Latin lines followed by two English stanzas. The first of these runs—

“ Elizabeth, the daughter deare
Of William Pyxe, heere lies inter'd
O ! that her death for many a yeare
Almightie God would have deferd.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Her Mother's Hope, her Father's joye,
And eke her Friends' delight was shee:
She was most kind, courteous not coy,
A meeker soule there could not bee.
A modest hue, a lovely grace,
Appeared in her beauteous face."

On the same wall is a small but striking 17th-century monument to a gentleman named Beale and his wife, who died—he in 1660 and she in 1657—two busts in recesses divided by a black marble pillar. There are two others. At each end above is the usual coat of arms. On the S. wall of the nave is a monument to Sir T. Pinfold, an eminent civil lawyer, who held the office of King's Advocate and Chancellor of Peterborough, and who died in 1701. This is by Nollekens. The Manor House was built in the 16th and enlarged in the 17th century.

Water Stratford is a mere hamlet in the Upper Ouse Valley (Finnere, Great Central Railway 2½ m.).—Little is left of the old church, the nave and chancel having been rebuilt in 1828, and the bell turret more recently, but the old doors and windows were preserved. The S. door is N. with zigzag mouldings, and a remarkable tympanum on which is depicted the Saviour seated. At the head of doorway note the remarkable horizontal string. The chancel doorway, also N., has a sculptured tympanum.

Wavendon (Woburn Sands Station, 1 m.) is a growing village on the high ground overlooking Woburn Sands and opposite the woods of Woburn Abbey (Beds). The church has a nave, chancel, N. aisle and W. tower, P., but the general character of the church is Dec

WATER STRATFORD—WENDOVER

The church was restored in 1848-49. The Manor House (c. 1600) about half a mile from the church, and the contour fort in Wavendon Wood add to the interest of this place.

Wendover (Metropolitan), formerly *Wendour*, is an attractive little town (431 ft.) in the Chiltern Hills, and an excellent centre for excursions, either E. by Boddington Hill and Halton Wood to Tring and the Herts border, or W. along the summit of Coombe Hill to Chequers Court and Ellesborough. The centuries have not changed Wendover, and Leland's description of it as "a pretty thoroughfare town, having two streets well builded with tymbre" is as appropriate now as it was three-and-a-half centuries ago. In the High Street are many half-timbered houses, mostly of the 16th and 17th centuries, and in the Tring Road is a line of heavily-thatched small-windowed cottages, built 1600 to 1620. The town nestles in a gap in the Chiltern range, and when viewed from above is almost lost in the dip of the land.

The Manor of Wendover, among the various changes of owners, once formed part of the dowry of Katherine of Arragon, and the borough, like Amerham and Marlow, having lost its Parliamentary representation for many years, obtained it again in 1623 through the exertions of John Hampden, who then became one of its members, which he remained till 1640. Wendover continued to return two members till the Reform Act of 1832, when it was disfranchised. Among these members occurs, in 1768, the name of Burke.

Wendover was for years the pocket borough of the Earls Verney, and it is said that at the election of 1784 there first appeared an individual who became notorious in subsequent elections in corrupt boroughs—The Man in the Moon, who brought £6000 to distribute among the voters.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The church is reached by the London road, and then by a footpath (left), or a little further on by a lane, or by going down the High Street and taking the path by the schools.

The church, with the Manor House behind it, and the picturesqueness of the surroundings, forms a delightful rural scene. Externally it is flint with a W. tower; internally it is spacious and lofty, with two aisles, a triforium and chancel, and is distinctly Dec. in style. Note the somewhat unusual piers, very early Dec., showing characteristics of much earlier work, and the capitals—S. with quaint animals, N. with flowers.

The S. door has good ball-flower ornament. The brass to William Bradschawe, wife and children (1539), S. wall of nave, is an interesting example of 16th-century work.

The walker who wishes to get among the Chilterns, by following the Tring road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, and taking a footpath (right) opposite the last of a row of cottages (left), can reach the Halton Woods and across the range to Tring (Herts). A more agreeable beginning to the walk is to take the path (left, not marked on Ordnance Map) from the church into the road to St Leonards, and when this road almost touches the open hillside (1 m.), to proceed by a grass bridle road round Boddington Hill, or climb to the top and walk through the beech woods till the path previously mentioned is struck at right angles. There is no public path as here indicated, but a respectable walker will not be interfered with.

If one wishes to go W. along the range of hills, take the road across the railway, which leads to



HIGH STREET, WENDOVER

WENDOVER—WESTBURY

Butler's Cross, Ellesborough and the Kimbles. Take the Upper Icknield Way, and in about 300 yards, follow the rough road (left) up Baccombe Hill (852 ft.), from which is a distant and continuous view over the county to the N. Avoid a pathway through the wood called the Scrub (left), and also a road (left) which leads to Little Hampden, and at the corner of a beech wood (right, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.), by a post which indicates a footpath to Butler's Cross, one finds a most agreeable view of the Chilterns. Below the wooded hills is Chequers Court (*see*), in a gap in the hills, with its park extending up the opposite slope; to the right the bare grassy surface of Cymbeline's Mount, and below it the tower or Ellesborough church. Beyond, to the N.W., the pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury extend to meet the Oxfordshire border. The road descends among woods, and joins a main road—left to Missenden—right to Butler's Cross, and if this be followed for a $\frac{1}{4}$ m., a pathway (left) across the fields conducts one to Ellesborough church and Cymbeline's Mount.

Two-and-a-half miles S.E. from Wendover by the side of the road to St Leonard's is the Hale, the birthplace of Sir Henry Colet, the father of Dean Colet. It is charmingly nestled in a recess of the hills. The house which Dean Colet once owned no longer exists, the present structure having been built about 1748; near it is an old cottage and a group of farm buildings make a pretty picture.

Westbury (Brackley, Great Central, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m., or London and North Western) is an old-fashioned village, near the N.W. borders of the county—

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Fulwell and Westbury, 1 m. (a pleasant footpath through the meadows from the station to the S.E. corner of churchyard shortens the distance by $\frac{1}{2}$ m.). The church, almost in the grounds of the Manor House, is good Dec. throughout. Note, however, the Trans. N. tower arch with toothed ornament. The pillars supporting the arch were rebuilt when the Dec. building replaced that of an older time. The ancient Manor House was entirely rebuilt in 1903.

Westcott is a large hamlet N.W. of Waddesdon, with a modern church and a station on the Quanton and Brill line.

Weston Turville (Wendover, $2\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is a considerable village in the low land to the N. of Wendover. Without any claim to be called picturesque, the cottages, among gardens and orchards as a foreground, and the not distant Chilterns beyond, form a pleasing bit of landscape. Weston takes its additional name from a family who owned the manor in the reign of King John.

The church (key at the rectory at some distance) is at the end of a small lane, which runs due S. near the W. end of the village. It is close to the Manor House, a modern brick building, and with the fields and hills beyond, and the large elms which overhang the lych gate, is well worth a visit. It has a W. tower (15th century), with high turret, a nave, aisle and chancel and two porches, partly of old work. The church has undergone several changes as the styles of architecture altered. The N. font is most

WESTCOTT—WESTON UNDERWOOD

attractive. It has the fluted ornament, cable and bead work. In the S. aisle are the remnants of a screen, 15th century. On the chancel wall is a small brass of a civilian (c. 1580) with no inscription. Note also the pulpit (1567) with good carvings, and some 14th-century glass.

Weston Underwood (Olney, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m.) is an attractive village. No more charming rural picture is to be found than the view from the lower end of the village, which lies on either side of the road from Olney, or from the church, which stands on a slight headland above the valley of the Ouse at the top of the village. At the Olney end, at the beginning of a gentle ascent are the spreading trees of Weston Park, opposite, on the lower side, is the site of the old house of the Throckmortons (now covered by modern stables and a Roman Catholic chapel), which was pulled down in 1826, when the Throckmortons—Thomas Throckmorton married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Olney in 1446—left Weston. In the 18th century the main road from Olney passed lower down the slope behind the great house. The present road was private, and one gateway still remains. Half way up the village street, on the right hand, is the house where Cowper lived from 1786 to his final departure from Bucks in 1795, in sadness and in sickness—a substantial building, resembling the rectory at Olney, behind some light iron railings. Anyone can see by the contrast of the places how great must have been the relief to Cowper, when his kind and sensible cousin, Lady Hesketh, arranged for him and Mrs Unwin to leave Olney

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

for Weston. His two friends, the Throckmortons, whom he playfully called Mr and Mrs Frog, lived at the Hall. This is now, as we have said, no longer in existence, but in the grounds across the road one may, though it is changed, see something of the Grove

“Between the upright shafts of whose tall elms
We may discern the thresher at his task,”

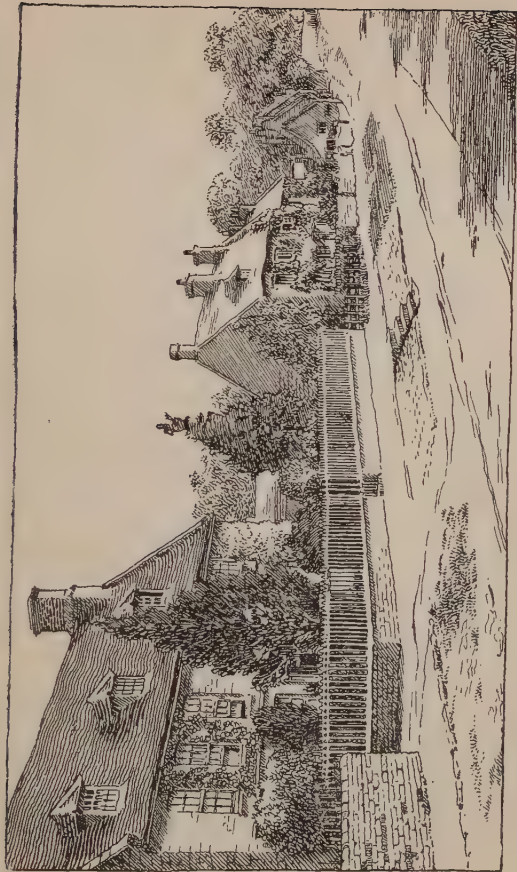
as well as of The Wilderness, whose

“Well-rolled walks
With curvature of slow and easy sweep”

have long ago become grass-grown.

It is this connection with Cowper which has given Weston something of the fame which belongs to Stoke Poges in the S. of the county. Between Weston and Olney the road passes over some rising ground, a rib of the valley side, the view from which Cowper and Mary Unwin in their walks to Weston, before they went to live there, must have many times gazed upon, and which is described in these felicitous lines :—

“How oft upon yon eminence our pace
Has slacken'd to a pause, and we have borne
The ruffling wind, scarce conscious that it blew,
While Admiration, feeding at the eye,
And still unsated, dwelt upon the scene.
Thence with what pleasure have we just discern'd
The distant plough slow moving, and beside
His lab'ring team, that swerv'd not from the track,
The sturdy swain diminished to a boy !
Here Ouse, slow winding through a level plain
Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er,
Conducts the eye along his sinuous course
Delighted. There, fast rooted in their bank,
Stand, never overlook'd, our fav'rite elms,



COWPER'S HOUSE, WESTON UNDERWOOD

WESTON UNDERWOOD

That screen the herdsman's solitary hut :
While far beyond, and overthwart the stream,
That, as with molten glass, inlays the vale,
The sloping land recedes into the clouds ;
Displaying on its varied side the grace
Of hedge-row beauties numberless, square tow'r,
Tall spire, from which the sound of cheerful bells
Just undulates upon the list'ning ear,
Groves, heaths, and smoking villages remote."

Weston Park can be entered from the road opposite the Roman Catholic chapel, but a walk, which best brings back Cowper's days, is to follow the little stream Ho-brook, which is crossed between Olney and Weston. Taking the path which leaves the road beyond Ho-brook, on the N. or right side coming from Olney, and passing along the streamlet, the path runs through the First Spinney—Cowper's Shrubbery. Presently one reaches the Peasant's Nest

"so thick beset
With foliage of such dark redundant growth,
I call'd the low-roof'd lodge the peasant's nest."

Now it is a neat farmhouse ; in days gone by it was a picturesque, thatched cottage.

Leaving this on the right, and continuing through the Second Spinney, one reaches the Chesnut Avenue. The path is best described in Cowper's own words—

"Descending now (but cautious, lest too fast)
A sudden steep upon a rustic bridge
We pass a gulf, in which the willows dip
Their pendent boughs, stooping as if to drink.
Hence, ankle deep in moss and flow'ry thyme,
We mount again, and feel at every step
Our foot half sunk in hillocks green and soft,
Rais'd by the mole, the miner of the soil.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The summit gain'd, behold the proud alcove
That crowns it ! yet not all its pride secure
The grand retreat from injuries impress'd
By rural carvers, who with knives deface
The pannels, leaving an obscure, rude name,
In characters uncouth, and spelt amiss."

The immediate foreground, and all the woodland scene are described with Cowper's marvellous fidelity ; and then he looks into the distance—

"O'er those, but far beyond (a spacious map
Of hill and valley interpos'd between),
The Ouse, dividing the well-water'd land,
Now glitters in the sun, and now retires,
As bashful, yet impatient to be seen."

Not far distant, to the left or S., is the avenue of limes,

"How airy and how light the graceful arch,"

and keeping still to the S. nearing the road, we end our ramble at The Wilderness, with its broad walk and two monumental urns, on one of which is the epitaph to Sir John Throckmorton's pointer, beginning—

"Here lies one who never drew
Blood himself, yet many slew ;"

and on the other the lines to the Spaniel,—

"Though once a puppy, and though Fop by name,
Here moulders one whose bones some honour claim."

The church was probably built about 1376, when Pope Gregory granted to the people of Weston the right to build a place of sepulture,

WESTON UNDERWOOD—WHADDON

and a chapel. It has a nave, aisles and chancel with circular pillars, N. porch and a W. tower with P. windows, and a restored W. doorway. There are good windows of the same style in the nave and clerestory. The upper lights of the 14th-century E. window contain some mediæval glass, and in the S. aisle is a brass of Elizabeth Throckmorton (1571), of which the head has been broken off, since it was engraved in Lipscomb in 1847, and the effigies of the children. There is also a brass inscription running from below the chancel steps in two lines into the nave, round the verge of a stone, in memory of John Olney, Lord of Weston and Olney, who on the inscription is said to have died in 1405, but this appears to be wrong, the real date of his death being 1393, and who seems, from the inscription, to have been the founder of the church—

“Is, quæ parva fuit antiqua Capella, ruensque,
Hanc in plebeiam condidit Ecclesiam,”

and this assertion would correspond with the date and tenor of the Papal Bull.

Wexham consists of some groups of scattered cottages N. of Slough. The church, 2 m. from Slough, is a small flint building covered with plaster, with a low tower and wooden bell-cot. It has a good Dec. E. window. Two small Norman windows are in the nave.

Whaddon (Bletchley, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a village on a high plateau (429 feet). Its modern aspect probably arises from the fact that the inhabitants of the manor were scattered, and only in recent times have cottages grown up near the

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

church and hall. The history of the Manor of Whaddon emphasises the absentee phase of English mediæval life, and shows that oftentimes there was little local connection between the lords of the manors and the locality in which they lay. At the Domesday survey the manor belonged to Walter Giffard, while the Bishop of Bayeux and Hugh de Bolebec also held a smaller share of the possessions of their Saxon predecessors. Later, the manor twice reverted to the Crown, and was successively held by the d'Albinis, Earls of Arundel, the Fitz-Geoffreys and the Fitz-Johns. Then the De Burghs, Earls of Ulster, appeared on the scene on the death of Richard Fitz-John in 1297, and then, in 1355, the estates descended to Philippa de Burgh, Countess of March. Several members of the March family followed until Edward, son of Cecil, Countess of March, succeeded to the throne as Edward IV. Henry VII. settled the manor on Katherine of Aragon on her marriage with Prince Arthur. At her death it was granted to Henry VIII.'s third wife, Jane Seymour, when she died in 1536 it again reverted to the Crown. During the remainder of the reign of Henry VIII., and in the reigns of Edward VI., Mary and Elizabeth the manor was held on lease from the Crown by several less distinguished families—the Pigotts, the Cliffords, the Tyrells and the Bests, but in the reign of James I. Whaddon again became a royal domain, and he granted it as part of her dower to his wife, Queen Anne. At her death he presented it to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, with all the property in Whaddon

WHADDON

which had belonged to the Lords Grey de Wilton, viz., Giffard's Manor, in which was included the Hall and grounds. On the death of the second duke Whaddon was bought by Mr Serjeant Selby and Mr Thomas Willis, the latter taking the portion which formed Lord Grey de Wilton's estate, and the former all the remainder. In 1761 Thos. James Selby purchased the Willis portion from the representatives of Browne Willis, the antiquary and historian of Buckinghamshire, and so again united the whole estate. Selby died in 1772 without children. He left his property—failing a right and lawful heir presenting himself and proving his claims within a twelvemonth—to William Lowndes, Esq. of Winslow, on the condition that he took the name of Selby. No heir, fortunately for him, turned up, and so the estate came to the family which at present owns it.

To the S. of Whaddon are several pieces of woodland—Thickbare Wood, Thrift Wood, Broadway Wood. These represent to-day the mediæval Chase of Whaddon, and indeed are popularly called Whaddon Chase. But the Chase covered a much larger area than the existing woods, both forest and intervening tracts of pasture, on which not only deer browsed but beasts belonging to those who had rights of common in the Chase, and which have long since been excluded. A chase was usually a detached portion of a royal forest to which the forest laws did not apply, and which had been granted by the sovereign to a subject. Whaddon Chase was thus granted by Henry III., but

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

strangely enough it was asserted by its owners that the king had given it to be held as if it were a royal forest (*Year Book*, Rolls Series, vol. xxxi. pp., 622-627). Whether this was so or not the records of the trial in which (in 1294) the point was raised do not tell us.

The church has a fine position on the edge of the high land which here slopes to lower ground, and a wide expanse of green and wooded country stretches away to the N.W. The building is Dec. in many of its details, with a W. tower, nave, chancel and aisle. It has a S. doorway in this style as well as the E. window. The Trans. Dec. or P. windows in the nave are also interesting. In the interior, note the N. pillars of north and south aisles with capitals ornamented with striking foliage and grotesque animals. The E.E. font is noticeable—a round bowl supported on four pillars divided by the tooth ornament. In the wall of the N. aisle, at the E. end, which was formerly a chapel, is a piscina, and in the N.W. corner is the monument to Arthur, Lord Grey de Wilton (*see* Introduction, p. 46), a plain tomb under a canopy supported by pillars. He died at Whaddon in 1593. In the N.E. corner of the same chapel is a monument remarkable because of the union of brass work with sculpture. Within a recess above the tomb are the brass effigies of Mr Serjeant Pigott (1519) in his gown, and of his two wives and their children. Above the brasses is a canopy decorated with four-leaved flowers supported by slender pillars, much worn. By the S. door of the nave is another remarkable brass to Margaret Missenden (1612) and her son

WHADDON—WHITCHURCH

—she in full Elizabethan costume; a little below, and to the left, her son in the unpleasant form of a skeleton. Above and below the figures are many lines of inscription, much of which is now illegible. In a carved frame on the W. wall is a brass, telling how Amy Emerton in 1613 gave a memorial clock to the church. To S. of church is a row of very old almshouses. To the N. of the village is the park and house of Whaddon Hall, of modern erection. In the park are the kennels of the Whaddon Chase Foxhounds—a pack which was started in 1842 by Squire Lowndes. It is now a subscription pack, hunting the county between that of the Bicester Hunt on the W., the Grafton on the N., and the Oakley on the E.

Whitchurch (Aylesbury, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a long village on the side of the low range which overlooks the western part of the Vale of Aylesbury. It creeps round a bend in the hills. From it the meadows descend steeply into the outstretching pastures. Many picturesque half-timbered cottages may be seen, some built in an unusual manner—the upper storey extending outwards supported on woodwork. The church dominates the village from a height on its E. side. Behind it stretch the famous grazing grounds—Creslow pastures (*see* Creslow). A lane runs from the main road to the churchyard, and the view up the approach, with its old cottages and the fine W. front of the tower, is extremely pleasing. The W. doorway, with clustered shafts with foliated capitals, and window, showing in its outlines Dec. treatment, certainly are

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

the best features of a fine church. The niche and sedilia Dec., on S. wall of chancel are noticeable, as are the 17th century font and cover, and the stalls, the initials R. H. on them are probably those of R. Hobbs, last Abbot of Woburn, a benefactor of the church. The painting of St Margaret in N. aisle (15th century) is remarkable. Remains of the once important Bolebec Castle (mound and bailey) are visible in the garden of the Grange.

Whiteleaf Cross is cut in the turf of a spur of the Chilterns, close to the hamlet of Whiteleaf (Prince Risborough Station, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m.)—almost certainly a misspelling of Whitecliffe.

This curious object was long popularly considered a relic of the A.S. age, as a monument of a battle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Danes. It is, however, now pretty clear, not a little from the entire absence of any mention among early authors, that it is more probably an indication of the crossing of the Icknield Way at this spot not older than the middle of the 17th century, by the road which here descends the escarpments of the Chilterns and connects Hampden, Missenden and Wycombe with Thame and Oxford. It has also been surmised that the cross had some connection with the defence of the Chilterns against the Royalist army in the Civil War. But this explanation has less to recommend it than that it was a mark for travellers of a place of considerable importance, for we have to remember that it was only here and there that in bygone ages it was possible to pass through the wild and dangerous woodlands of the Chilterns, though it may very well be objected to this explanation that the cross cannot be seen from the N. or E. Possibly, however, surmises of antiquarians are all wrong, and this cross as well as the small cross at Bledlow, may have been nothing more than a private landmark. (See on the



WHITELEAF CROSS

LOWER WINCHENDON

whole subject an interesting paper by the late E. J. Payne, *Records of Bucks*, vol. vii.).

Widmer (Marlow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.) on left of main road to Oxford. Remains of an ancient chapel—now a farmhouse with crypt, 38 ft. by 18 feet. Here was formerly the Manor House of Widmer. The lords of the Manor were the Knights Templars, then the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. This fact accounts for the chapel.

Willen (Newport Pagnell, 2 m.) is a small village in the rather uninteresting country which lies between Newport Pagnell and Bletchley. The church, unlike nearly all the Bucks churches, is not Gothic. It was built in 1660 and is said to have been designed by Wren.

Winchendon, Lower (Haddenham G.W. and G.C.R., $3\frac{1}{4}$ m.; Waddesdon Manor, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.) is a picturesque village on the S. margin of the ridge on which Upper Winchendon stands. The cottages are nearly all thatched, half-timbered and of a soft brownish-yellow colour. The church, with W. tower, nave and chancel, is small, though there are some good details, especially in the W. doorway (15th century). Inside the communion rails are several brasses—(1) a man in armour in good preservation (c. 1420); (2) John Barton (effigy headless), and his wife, Margaret, 1487; (3) on the N. wall of chancel a woman, apparently in prayer, with folded hands—without inscription. Note the Manor Farm to W. of church.

The Manor of Lower Winchendon was after the Conquest the property of the Giffards. Walter, about 1162, gave it as part of the endowment of the not distant Notley Abbey. But this grant was never altogether acquiesced in by some who claimed under adverse grants a right to the manor or portions of it. But at the dissolution the Abbots were unquestionably recognised as the possessors of the manor. The first point of

interest in the ownership of this land is the grant in 1547 of a considerable part of the property, "late part of the possessions of Notley Abbey," to that zealous servant of Henry VIII., John, Lord Russell, first Earl of Bedford. However, in 1558, the Earl of Bedford sold his lands in Winchendon to William Goodwyn, a citizen of London, through whose grand-daughter, Petronilla, they became, as her marriage portion, the property of Thomas Tyringham, some of whose descendants lie buried in the church. Winchendon Priory, as one Manor House is now called, is to the S. of the village, close to the Thame. Most of the old house was rebuilt in the 16th century, and it was altered at the beginning of the next century. It contains a number of family portraits, and some interesting old furniture.

Winchendon, Upper (Waddesdon Manor Station, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.), is a parish, the centre of which consists of a few buildings on the high ridge which is almost opposite to Waddesdon Manor. The church, entered by an approach of private road, and hidden by farm buildings from the passer-by on the main road, stands (550 ft.) on the N. edge of the ridge overlooking an out-stretching pasture-land to the N.W. The massive piers of the nave indicate the early origin of the church, whilst the fine N. door in S. wall, E.E. east window, the Dec. windows in the N. aisle, and the P. character of the tower are interesting illustrations of the change of architectural style. In the Dec. windows in the N. aisle the attempt at floral imitation is noticeable. Observe also octagonal font, 14th-century pulpit and the Dec. screen.



UPPER WINCHENDON CHURCH

UPPER WINCHENDON—WING

In the chancel is the brass effigy of a man—full length figure, Sir John Stodeley (1502).

The Manor of Upper Winchendon belonged to the Priory of St Frideswide at Oxford. It was granted to Wolsey by Henry VIII., and at his fall to John Goodwyn, Esq., of Wooburn, whose descendant, Jane Goodwyn, carried the estate by marriage to Philip, fourth Lord Wharton. His successor, the Marquis of Wharton, was buried in Winchendon church, but his son, the famous Duke, was indicted for high treason in 1728, and his estates were confiscated. Only the kitchen of the Manor House remains in the house to E. of church.

Wing (Leighton Buzzard, $2\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is a large village on the western front of one of those long hills which are formed by the oolitic outcrop, and are so characteristic of the Vale of Aylesbury. On its southern side runs the road to Aylesbury; on its northern the road to Stewkley and Cublington. A charming little bicycle ride or walk is from Cheddington Station, through Mentmore, and to approach the village through the immense meadow known as Wing Park. Here and there may be seen an old and picturesque cottage, but Wing has nothing like the charm of many less important villages in the county. The almshouses (1562), near the Aylesbury road, among small gardens, are noticeable.

The church is important, but it has not the same beauty as Milton Keynes or Maids Moreton. It is a large church with W. tower, aisles and a curious chancel, with polygonal apse raised above the level of the nave, and having beneath it a

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

crypt of rough flint, which, as well as the apse, is usually considered as Saxon work. The three western arches of the nave are massive but ugly, and are Saxon, while the eastern arches are E.E. There are, however, several good early Dec. windows and a P. east window. The rood screen and the screen in S. aisle (the top of the rood screen is modern) are interesting examples of early 16th-century work. The old reading desk, now at W. end of N. aisle, is also noticeable. Externally the S. porch is a fine specimen of P., though the influence of the previous period is visible, not only in the pinnacles, but in the central niche and the singular animals who crouch above the dripstone. The tower is also P. Wing is rich in monuments. On the N. side of chancel is a fine and reposeful monument to Sir W. Dormer (died 1575) and Dorothy, his wife. They lie side by side, but Sir William somewhat higher than his wife—two life-sized figures in the dress of the period, marked by a breadth of treatment which prevents the realism from being disagreeable. Below are their children—among them some babes at rest. Opposite to them is the monument to Sir Robert Dormer and Dame Elizabeth, his wife, two kneeling figures. The Dormer Monument in N. aisle (1552) is an excellent piece of work of Itchan design. Of the monumental brasses the most interesting is that to Thomas Cotes in S. aisle, porter at Ascott Hall, 1648. He is represented kneeling, with a porter's staff under his feet, a high-crowned hat and a

*Palladian
Style.*

WING—WINGRAVE

large key lying behind him, beneath is this quaint rhyme—

“Honest old Thomas Cotes, That sometime was
Porter at Ascott Hall, hath now (alas)
Left his Key, Lodg, Fyre, Friends and all to have
A Roome in Heaven. This is that good man's grave.
Reader prepare for thine, For none can tell
But that you Two may meete to-night. Farewell.”

Set up at the apoyntment and charges of his Frend,
GEO. HOUGHTON.

In the same aisle are two more effigies, rather worn, commemorating Harry Blacknall (1460) and his wife, Agnes (1489); and in the N. aisle the brass effigies of a civilian and his wife, without inscription.

At Ascott, a short distance to the E. of Wing, is a picturesque modern house, built by the late Mr. Leopold de Rothschild. It is on the site of a house once owned by the Dormers, whose monuments in the church have been mentioned.

A short distance from the house are the kennels of the stag hounds, established by Baron Meyer de Rothschild in 1847, and which, known among hunting men as the Barons, have offered sport and amusement to many generations, not only of purely sporting men, but to others, such as Anthony Trollope, who have found health and pleasure in gallops over the wide pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury.

Wingrave (Aylesbury, $5\frac{3}{4}$ m.) is grouped on a hill top. The reason is very apparent to anyone who has ridden in mid-winter over the heavy wet meadows which surround it on all sides, improved though they are by modern drainage. The church,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

at the W. edge of the hill, is markedly P. in character. The E. window is a fair example of the style. The 12th-century wall arcading in the chancel and a small vaulted chamber to the north of the nave, with wall paintings, probably of the 13th century, are of much interest.

Winslow (London and North-Western Railway) is a pleasant little town which, like most of the small towns of Bucks, has remained stationary in population and size. Three streets from the N.E. and W. converge on a small market square. On the right hand entering the town from the E. is seen the substantial Winslow Hall (built 1700), a fine example of domestic architecture. Note also some old thatched cottages on the same road. A short narrow lane from the W. end of the church is, however, the best bit in the town. To the S. of the market-place is a large modern Congregational church. The church (o) is to the N. of the market-place. It is a fine well-proportioned building (Dec.), with W. tower, nave, two aisles, and chancel. The lofty tower arches, (14th century) are particularly noticeable, and give a dignity to the whole edifice. Its general character is now P., the windows in N. and S. aisles of this style being good, the heads having mullions above cinquefoiled heads. Note also the traces of paintings in N. aisle, and within the altar rails, N., the well-preserved effigies of Thos. Fige, Gent. (1578) and his wife and seven children, and on S. the brass commemorating Dorothy Barnard (1634).

It is said that the Mercian kings had a palace at Winslow, and that it was while in residence

WINSLOW—WOOBURN

here that King Offa planned the foundation of the monastery at St Albans. At the Domesday survey the lands here were in the possession of that monastery, and remained so till the dissolution.

Woburn Sands (London and North-Western Railway) is a small modern village, just on the border of Bedfordshire, to which it may be said to belong, as it is close to Woburn and Woburn Abbey.

Wolverton (London and North-Western Railway) consists of an old parish and small market town and New Wolverton—a distinct ecclesiastical parish, in which are grouped the workshops and many dwelling-houses of the artisans of the London and North-Western Railway, by which, in January 1893, 2900, in January 1903, 4430 men were employed. This is the most noticeable feature of the place, and is the cause of its growth. After the Conquest Manno of Brittany, to whom many manors were given, built a castle here, and was the first of the Barons of Wolverton. The churches are modern, but in that of Holy Trinity, rebuilt in 1815, is a marble monument—a life-sized recumbent effigy to Sir Thomas Longueville (died 1685). This church has a good deal of coloured decoration executed in 1877, which may have interest for ecclesiologists.

Wooburn and Wooburn Green (Station, Wooburn Green, Great Western Railway).—These places form one long village, and lie in the valley of the Wye, and below them, on the banks of the Thames, is Bourne End (Station), with its boathouses and riverside villas. At Wooburn

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Green the houses are prettily clustered round an oval green. The church has been restored out of recognition of its former self; the late N. piers and arches alone tell of its early foundation. In the floor of chancel are brasses to—(1) Thomas Swayn in cope, 1519; (2) a man in shroud, 1520; (3) Arthur, son of Philip, Lord Wharton, 1641; and in floor of N. aisle to (1) John Godwyn, 1488; (2) Christopher Askowe and wife, 1510.

A palace of the Bishops of Lincoln once stood here, which afterwards became the property of the Whartons. Philip, Lord Wharton (died 1793), is buried in the church; his son, Thomas (1647-1715), was the Whig statesman, and his son was the eccentric Duke—

“A fool with more of wit than half mankind,
Too rash for thought, for action too refined.”

At the close of his extravagant and extraordinary career in 1728 the property was sold. In those days Wooburn House was one of the finest places in England, but it was pulled down in 1750, and a small house now stands on its site—on the S.E. side of the valley. Note to S.W. of church some old cottages, part of another ancient house, 15th and 16th centuries, which once belonged to the D'Eyncourts; and opposite the church some picturesque cottages, with quaint wooden (17th-century) figures, which are said to have come from the church.

Woolstone, Great (Fenny Stratford, 3 m.) is a village of no importance. The church was rebuilt in 1839. Notice the N. font brought from St Cuthbert's Church, Bedford.

GREAT WOOLSTONE—WOTTON

Woolstone, Little (Newport Pagnell, 3 m.) is another little parish close to Great Woolstone, but with a few more inhabitants, though each has less than 100. The church, which probably dates from the 12th century, is small and of no interest, and has been much altered. It contains, however, a good font, N., and fragments of old glass in W. window.

Worminghall (Thame, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.).—This village, with Ickford and Shabbington, form an interesting trio of small villages in the low ground on the S.W. border of the county, in the valley through which the Thame winds. The church is at S. end of the village in the fields. It is a small church with a chancel, nave, and P. tower. Remains of the original Norman building are the chancel arch and the S. doorway, plain, but with some rather unusual ornament—a roll with clasps; in the S. wall are Dec. windows. There is a noticeable brass on the S. wall of chancel, in good condition, to Philip King and his wife and twelve children (1592), with a quaint rhymed inscription which begins—

“The aged root that twelve times fruit did bear,
(Though first and last were blasted in their prime)
Is withered now—”

Two noted divines, Dr John King, Bishop of London (born 1559), and Dr Henry King, Bishop of Chichester (born 1591), were born at Worminghall.

Wotton (G.W. & G.C.R. and Brill Metropolitan Railway) consists of Wotton House, standing at the S.E. corner of the park, a long avenue connecting it with the Bicester and Aylesbury roads.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The house is of red brick, and was built in 1820 after the former house was burnt. In the 14th century the manor came to the Grenvilles, and has remained in that family to the present day.

The church is a little to the S. of the house in the park, prettily shaded by trees, and with an old and picturesque farm near it. Architecturally the church has been so much modernised that it is without value. It contains on S. a 14th-century chapel, private property of the Grenvilles—which is separated from the church, and has been rebuilt—in N.W. end of which on floor is a black marble monument, with brass effigies, of Edward Grenville (1585), his wife, Alice, and their infant son. At W. end is a recumbent figure under an elaborate canopy. On E. wall of the aisle is a monument to the last Duke of Buckingham (died 1889).

Woughton-on-the-Green (Fenny Stratford, 3 m.).—This is a small village and church—in this there is a curious 14th-century recess with a rude effigy of a priest.

Wraysbury, properly Wyrardisbury (Station, $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Staines, $2\frac{3}{4}$ m.), is an uninteresting village, the most southern in the county. The church (o), among meadows on S.W. of village a little off the road, is however picturesquely placed, with a charming view across the Thames to the hills beyond. It has been so much restored as now to have little interest. The oblong E.E. pillars dividing N. aisle, with small columns at the angles, are noticeable. There is an old plain font, a good sedilia and piscina, E.E. in character, and in S. aisle some Jacobean carvings. Note also the E.E. flowers on capitals of tower arch; in chancel by S. wall the small brass to John Stonor in the dress of an Eton student (1512), and knight in armour, early 16th century.

The footpath past the church leads to the Ferry at Magna Charta Island. To the S. on

WRAYSBURY—HIGH WYCOMBE

the banks of the Thames is Ankerwyke House, rebuilt in 1805, on the site of a Benedictine Priory founded in the reign of Henry II. by Sir Gilbert de Montfitchet. Magna Charta Island, on which the Great Charter was signed in 1215, is nearly due S. of the church ($2\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Staines Bridge by river). In the centre is the flat stone, called Charter Stone, on which, according to tradition, King John signed the famous document.

Wycombe, High (G.C. & G.W.R.), or Chipping Wycombe, is the largest town in the county (24,557 inhabitants, 1911). It has always been an important town, and was a Parliamentary borough until the Reform Act of 1867; in 1626, Waller, the poet, was one of its members.

Its present prosperity arises primarily from the manufacture of chairs. Originally only "Windsor," or kitchen, chairs of beech from the adjoining woods were made, but now chairs of all kinds are manufactured. A large number of hands are employed in the trade.

Up and down the valley from the old part of the town, of which the market-place is the centre, most unattractive small houses and factories extend. The old part, however, is quiet and interesting, containing the Town Hall (1757), and the Little Market House (1604), some old houses in White Hart Street, and others in close proximity. Observe also the Priory, N. of church, a 16th-century house, and the almshouses (1562), on S. side of London road opposite Grammar School.

The church, on N. side of High Street, and hidden from it by adjoining houses, is the largest

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

church in the county (202 ft. long, 148 ft. high in nave). Externally it is far from interesting, but the interior is imposing. A N. church was built at the end of the 11th century by Swartling, the Thane. Of this there are no remains except a piece of a capital now placed in a niche in North aisle, and a piece of rough walling built of native boulder stone, which is in W. wall of N. aisle. The second, a late E.E. church, was erected in the 13th century, and completed in 1275. Of this there remain the striking arch and jambs of the W. window, now one of the tower arches, the pillars and arch dividing N. aisle of nave from the chancel aisle, and the windows of the aisle, which have been restored. But the S. doorway and porch are certainly the most attractive and interesting remains of the E.E. church, though the S. front in its original state had three E.E. windows—it was restored in 1893 in harmony with alterations made long after it was first built. Early in the 16th century the tower was moved from the centre of the building to the W. end.

Note the curious juxtaposition of the tower arch and the former W. window, the P. pillars, piers and windows of chancel. The roofs of nave and aisles and the tower are of this period. The battlement was added in the 18th century. Note the restored P. screen in S. aisle, the corbels of the roof, the monument to the first Earl of Shelburne, in N. chancel aisle. He purchased the Wycombe Abbey estate in 1700; it was purchased by the first Baron Carrington in 1794. The house (now Wycombe Abbey school for girls) is seen in pleasant grounds on the S. side of the town.



WYCOMBE AULEY

WEST WYCOMBE

On the N. side of the London road once stood St. John's Hospital, founded in the 11th century. Of this some N. piers, capitals and arches are carefully preserved in the garden of the Grammar School.

A remnant of old times survives in a meadow of 30 acres, called the Rye, in which every inhabitant of the town has a right of common for two cows and a heifer. On the ridge to the S.W. of the town is Earl Carrington's house, Dawes Hill.

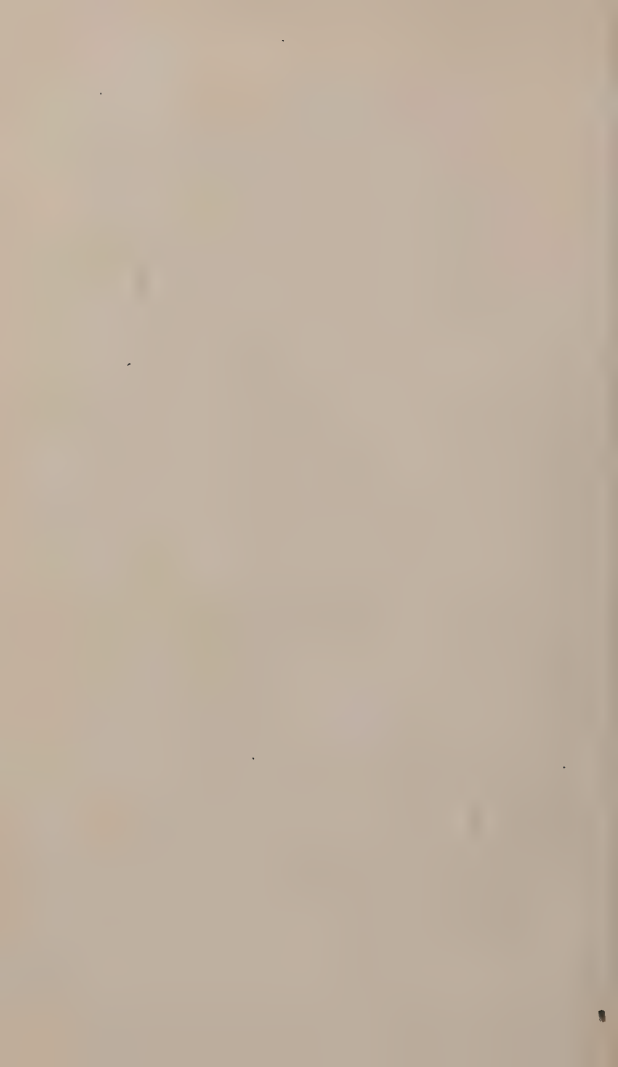
Wycombe, West (station, G.C. and G.W.R.) is a quaint old-world village on the London and Oxford road, 2 m. from High Wycombe. It consists of one street; many of the cottages have overhanging storeys. The most ancient-looking structure is the church loft (late 15th century) on the right-hand side going west. One of the upright wooden beams has a cross cut into it, and another by the wide gateway leading to Church Lane has the iron handcuffs of the village stocks nailed to it. The church (600 feet) stands on the summit of a hill within an ancient entrenchment on the site of a N. church (the lower part of the tower is mediæval). It was rebuilt by Sir Francis Dashwood—afterwards Lord le Despenser—in 1793 (as to him, *see* Medmenham), and is full of eccentric details. Note, however, a good carved font stand, a brass to R. East and his wife (1683) and some wood-carving in the chancel by Gibbons. Externally the huge ball on the top of the tower is most conspicuous. At the E. end is a mausoleum, in which the half-mad peer was buried, and where the heart of his kindred

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

spirit, Paul Whitehead, the dramatist, was placed. West Wycombe Park lies on the S. side of the village. The house and grounds are not open to the public, but may be seen by special permission. Desborough Castle, an ancient entrenchment, is clearly visible on the high land to left between High and West Wycombe.



WEST WYCOMBE CHURCH



APPENDIX

A

BRASSES

[Effigies only, not inscriptions or coats-of-arms]

Amersham, Astwood, Beachampton, Beaconsfield, Bledlow, Bletchley, Bradenham, Burnham, Chalfont St Giles, Chalfont St Peter, Chearsley, Chenies, Chesham Bois, Chicheley, Claydon (Middle), Clifton Reynes, Datchet, Denham, Dinton, Drayton Beauchamp, Drayton Parslow, Dunton, Edlesborough, Ellesborough, Emberton, Eton, Haddenham, Halton, Hambledon, Hampden (Great), Hanslope, Hardmead, Haversham, Hedgerley, Horwood (Great), Hitcham, Hughenden, Iver, Ivinghoe, Langley, Leckhampstead, Lillingstone Dayrell, Lillingstone Lovell, Linford (Great), Linslade, Long Crendon, Loughton, Ludgarshall, Marlow (Little), North Marston, Marsworth, Milton Keynes, Missenden (Great), Missenden (Little), Moulsoe, Newnton Longville, Newport Pagnell, North Crawley, Penn, Quainton, Radnage, Risborough (Monks), Saunderton, Shalstone, Slapton, Soulbury, Stoke Poges, Stone, Stowe, Swanbourne, Taplow, Thornborough, Thornton, Tingewick, Turweston, Twyford, Tvringham, Upton, Waddesdon, Wendover, Weston Turville, Weston Underwood, Whaddon, Whitchurch, Winchendon

APPENDIX

(Nether and Upper), Wing, Winslow, Wooburn, Worminghall, Wotton, Wraysbury, Wycombe (West).

Palimpsest Brasses, pages 37, 88, 90, 115, 153, 155, 240, 249. Included in above.

B

ROOD SCREENS.

Pages 35, 101, 124, 158, 162, 163, 168, 188, 205, 211, 223, 249, 259, 270, 272, 280.

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is London.)

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